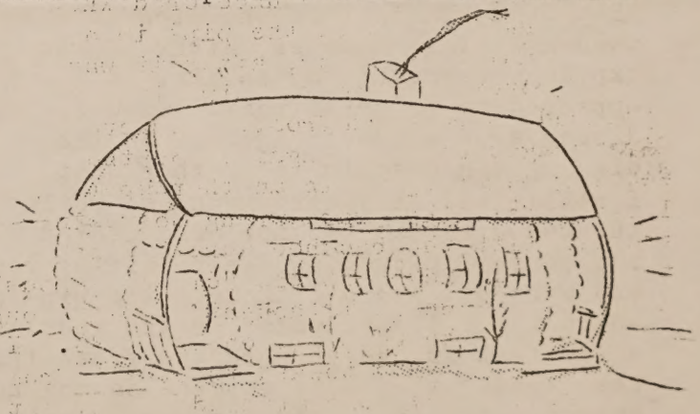
# Greetings

to our many, many friends both old and new! It is time once again to bring you up to date on happenings at Hospitality House. We have been so busy with program that it has been difficult to find the time to write about it. However, because of your fine response we want to keep you informed of the work in which you share through your prayers and contributions.

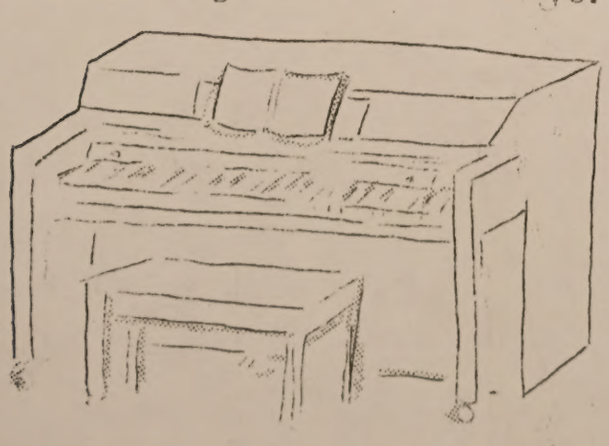
The need seems greater than ever for Hospitality House. We have calls day and night requesting care for girls, many younger than our 14 year limit. There are many conferences with parents. Everyone is concerned not knowing what to do. All of a sudden we are faced with problems whose roots are deep in the past. Conditions that bring about feelings of rebellion and hatred do not help make our world a good place in which to raise families. Many of our young people are very much affected yet ever seeking truth and not always being given the right answers by those of us who are adults, partly because we are unsure ourselves.

During the past year we have had some changes in staff. Mrs. Hazel Crowl and Mrs. Julia Livingston are still in control of housekeeping and in general keep us in order. Mrs. Hackney is back with us after having been in Hawaii for over a year. Joanna Klamm left for Iran nearly a year ago and we enjoyed an all too brief visit with her recently. Miss Amoret Wiley from Tennessee came to us in September as a volunteer worker. She plans to stay only until the first of June. We continue to hope that Alaska will capture her for a long time to come but she still feels heart tugs for those Kentucky hills. Mrs. Eve Kennedy, our faithful VISTA volunteer, who has been working with the young people in the jail, is now working more with those who are on the outside trying to get a new start in life. She is acting as an advisor to some, working closely with the Division of Corrections and with Hospitality House. Mrs. Helen Morin, another VISTA, who came to us in August is proving invaluable. She is a great help with our girls--accompanying them to the doctor, enrolling a new girl in school, talking over problems they may have with teachers, sometimes chaperoning. She visits families who have problems especially those connected with girls who live here. She has been assisting residents of the Birch Park area to organize to help themselves. In addition to all this she is the best organizer of closets we have had in a long time. It is a joy to see our storerooms kept in order with labels on boxes as they ought to be. What would we do without our VISTAs?!



LIKE THE OLD WOMAN IN THE SHOE WE HAD SO MANY GIRLS WE HAVEN'T KNOWN WHAT TO DO!

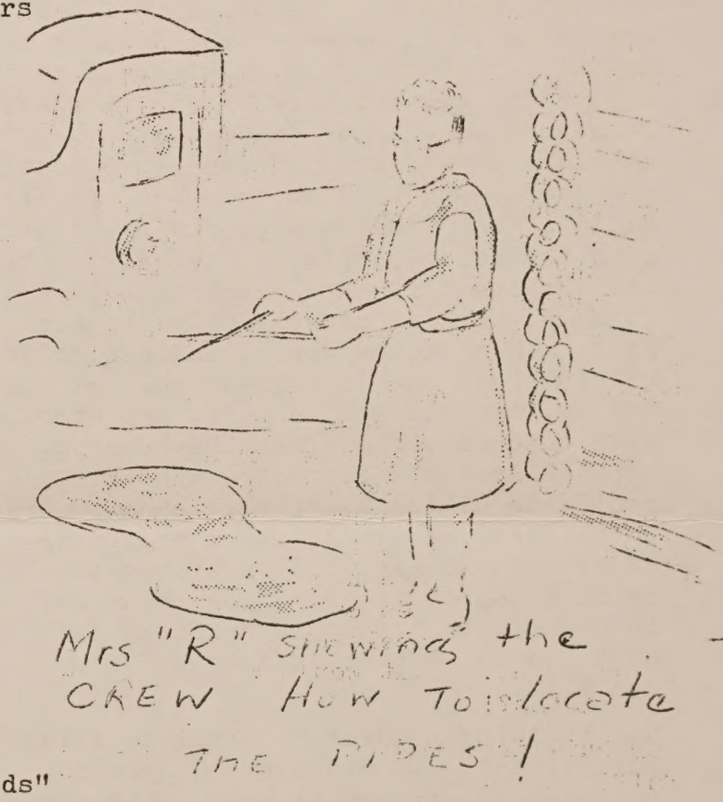
Our building project is still awaiting fulfillment. We did hope to have our basement dug this fall but due to circumstances beyond our control we were unable to do so. At the present time we have the building plans but they are now in the Division of Properties Office in New York awaiting cost analysis. We hope this will be accomplished very soon so that we can ask for bids by the end of December. I sometimes wonder how long we can go on without pushing out the walls. Through the spring and into summer we had from twenty-three to twenty-six girls at times. This is beyond the number we are qualified to handle but as there was nothing else to do, we put up extra cots in the living room to provide a place for girls to sleep until they could locate elsewhere. Some of these girls were older but there were no apartments to rent due to houses being remodeled or torn down after the flood. We hope this condition will not continue into another year but it could very well do so.




One wonderful addition to the chapel was the purchase of the new piano to replace our poor flooded spinet. This was made possible by many, many small and a few large gifts from all over the country from church organists, young people, Sunday School classes and we want to take this space to say a SPECIAL THANK YOU to each one from girls and staff.

We had a very fine group of summer workers this summer. Mrs. Dorothea Doyle from Freeport, Illinois helped with the housekeeping so Mrs. Crowl and Mrs. Livingston could take time out for vacations. I am sure Mrs. Doyle, while she worked so very hard, had no idea how much we appreciated her help. She was a wonderful organizer. Gretchen Heyer from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, a very vivacious young lady, also was a valuable addition in working on program. Bonnie Lake from Portland, Oregon was here for her second year and worked with Gretchen. Many of our girls were working so this was a rather difficult summer to ortanize program and it took some real thinking and planning. Linda Walker, from Beaver, Pennsylvania was our secretary. A new field for her but she quickly made herself at home both in the office and in Alaska. She did not want to leave nor did we like to see her go but have a hope she will return. She will probably go into Vista this year and perhaps she can be assigned to Hospitality House, although her interest has been in the Southwest with our Indian people. We are very pleased that Jan Walters, who has been our summer worker three summers, and Bonnie Lake are both teaching at Anchorage this year. They will be close enough to visit us upon occasion and, in fact, we expect them for Thanksgiving. We feel our volunteer program has benefited Alaska in many ways including the supplying of two fine teachers!

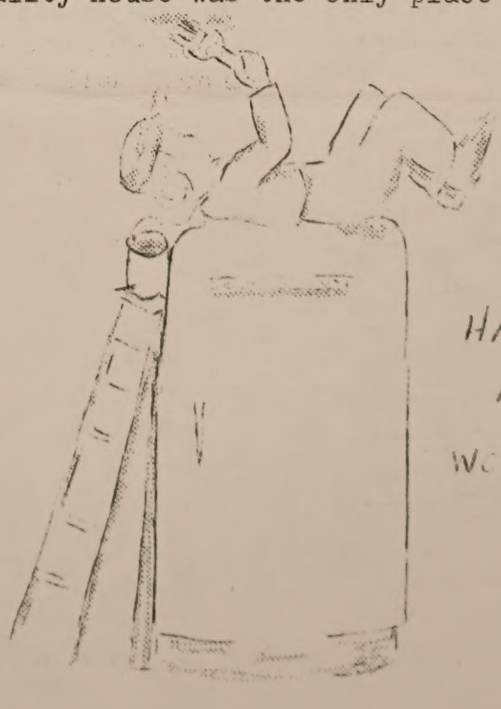
About a week before our work team was due, we had a real crisis. Our sewers backed up after a rain with flash flooding. For a while everyone thought we were having another flood. The plumbers said it was in the pipes outside the house so the digging began. The plans showed an approximate location but the pipes were not there. The men didn't know where to dig next. One evening a group of our young women were over for a prayer meeting and I told them about our problem. When they went home, one told her husband and he immediately came over and offered to help find the pipes. He showed Harry how to cut off some coat hangers to use as divining rods--of all things! Roland found one spot where the "divining rod" responded. He and Harry began to dig and uncovered what they thought might be the pipe in a wooden casing, however, after it was exposed overnight to the air, it appeared to be permafrost. We were discouraged all over again. So the digging began again in another spot. I still felt they were wrong so while the men with the backhoe were behind the house I picked up the "divining rods" and went out where I thought the pipe ought to be and sure enough this is where I got the response on the rods. I quickly went to ask the men to dig a few feet further toward the front from where they had been the day before. They agreed they were stumped so why not "humor" the woman? I left on an errand and when I returned--what excitement! Staff members and girls all waving, hands up and fingers "v" shape to tell me the pipe was found. I was especially thankful when the work team arrived later that day and the pipes were all clear. The foreman of the crew offered me a job locating 'hard to find' pipes but I assured him that Hospitality House was the only place our particular divining rods would work. Those men did a wonderful job and were so very patient.



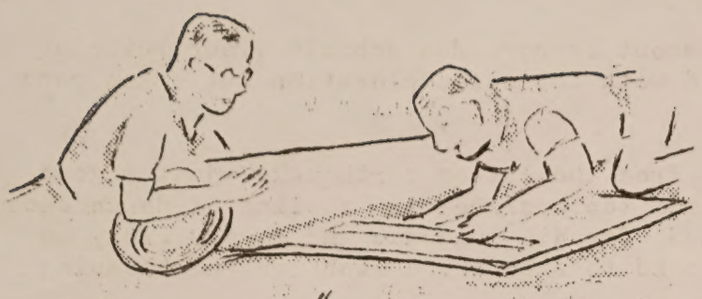
Mrs "R" showing the CREW How To locate THE PIPES!

Each year we look forward with anticipation to the coming of the Nebraska work team under the leadership of Rev. Henry Guinotte. They were no disappointment! They did more work than ever in painting throughout the house, getting the yard in order, cleaning up after the flood ind in general getting our house all set for the winter.

Mrs. Guinotte was a wonderful addition tc the group this year. The children could stay with relatives freeing her to join Henry in this summer's project. We had a wonderful time with them. Many outings and much fun along with much work accomplished.



HARD AT WORK!



Who said "cutting a rug" was fun?!

Before the work team left, they decided there wasn't much they could do to make the tile floors look less worn and shabby so they decided we had better have rugs. Henry flew about getting prices and found that he could get a pretty good price on the indoor-outdoor carpeting and presto--rugs were installed! And what wonderful benefits they bring in warmth, sound deadening, and just a more homelike--less institution appearance.

Among the many activities that the girls planned and helped with was the week at Harding Lake. Most of our girls were working on Youth Corps jobs at Alaskaland (formerly A-67), Head Start and with Retarded Children's classes as aides, cafeteria helpers, trainees in offices and at the educational TV office. We requested that wherever possible they be relieved from their jobs for a week in order to have a week at camp. There were many other summer activities such as berry picking, hiking, outdoor picnics, just anything that would keep young people busy and interested. Two of our girls were able to go on the "Go-See Seminar" in Southeastern Alaska through funds supplied through the Women's Association at First Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks and found this a wonderful experience.

Some of the girls helped the summer work team during "Golden Days" building a float for the parade. The Nebraska Work Team is well accepted in Fairbanks due to their participation in fun as well as work. One of our girls entered the Queen Contest during the Eskimo Olympics. In addition to her participation, many of the contestants from the villages stayed with us and it was a hectic time of television appearances and excitement. During the busiest time of the summer when we were entertaining guests, who should arrive but twelve little Girl Scouts from Barrow on their way to Harding Lake Camp. We bedded them down on the living room floor. On their return to Barrow they stopped in again. Then their plane was delayed for a couple of days. When they returned to their village we received a letter of appreciation and a check from them.

We were thrilled to have two groups visit us this summer under the leadership of Miss Ida Pfeufer and Rev. Wm. Pritchard. One in June and the other in August. Also a group of the "Wayfarers" stopped in and we had a good time of fellowship. A member of the "Nomads" tour group from Michigan brought many items both for us and for other mission stations. We appreciate so much having people stop in--some with the Mission Yearbook of Prayer in hand to see what they are helping to support. It is encouraging to have a chance to fellowship with them though I am sure there are many more who come through Fairbanks who do not know that we are here. I would urge any of you who know people who are coming to Alaska or to Fairbanks to have them stop. The latch is always out and the coffeepot is always on. It may be possible for them to join us for a meal.

We have had a very fine offer from a friend of ours, Rev. Russ Wilson of the Church of God, who felt we needed a boost in promoting Hospitality House as well as in increasing our finances. He had been making antiqued plaques using Bible verses in the Eskimo and the Indian languages. He has done this as a hobby and felt it was something we could use. Visitors who have seen these works of art feel they would have a good market value. This is being brought to the attention of our administrative committee and we hope something will come of it. Mrs. Livingston also makes notepaper out of pressed wild flowers and local flowers. One never knew when she would spot a pretty garden and be off to ask the owner for some of their prettiest flowers. Anything for a project at Hospitality House! She sold enough packages to purchase a big Webster's dictionary and stand. She is still at work with the next project a really sturdy globe for reference. We will have our library filled before it is built. When Dr. Thelma Adair was here she suggested that we do some exploring of both these projects to see if we could not come up with a way of using them for income.

Once begun we could write on and on....about overcrowded schools...our tutoring program...the influx of people connected with the oil exploration but space runs out.

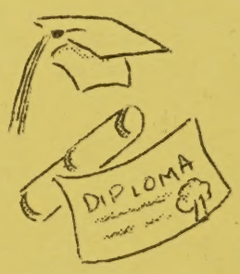
I'll just take time to report no damage from the latest earthquake--just a good shaking! And along with the shaking comes the overwhelming feeling of dependence on strength beyond our own and a gratitude for His guidance and care. Truly we have so much to be thankful for and we send to each one a wish for the blessing of the Lord this Thanksgiving.

Harry & Mable R. Rasmussen
Hazel Crowl
Julia Livingston
A. Moret Wiley
Helen M. Morin
Eve Kennedy
Esther L. Hackney

# Our Seal for 1969-70!

Before we get into current happenings--just a few notes both sad and happy--some of you have not heard since our November newsletter and you will grieve with us at the sudden death of Mrs. Eve Kennedy, our beloved VISTA volunteer. A memorial for Eve will be placed in our new building when it is completed, but the living memorial of the young lives she touched speaks volumes. The apartment for the older girls with Eve as housemother had to be closed temporarily although at first the other workers tried to double up and cover this worthwhile project also. You will rejoice with us to know that March 15 Mrs. Helen Barrett came as a volunteer housemother--and a happier family you can't imagine--with many projects. Of course all her girls are working, but learning with her assistance to plan and budget for the day when they will have their own homes.

Thanks to all of you we had a most wonderful Christmas. If we missed any thank-you letters....and I know we have done poorly this year in getting letters out on time--or even getting them out at all--please accept our heartfelt gratitude for all you have done to encourage and support us, financially, prayerfully and with lovely gifts and clothing for the girls.



Thank you for your patience in waiting so long to hear from us. We intended to have thisnewsletter in the mail by Easter but as usual one event after another got in the way.

We are just through with graduation and a cause for rejoicing--our girls who graduated this year--from Lathrop High, Mary and Jan; from Monroe High, Sarah. Three former girls also graduated: Pam in Indiana; Alma and Vera at Chemawa, Oregon. It is wonderful to hear from the girls who have once been a part of Hospitality House family and know they are continuing with their education.

## Students Returning Home

Along with the graduation and the closing of schools, comes the spring airlift of students. We have overnighted many girls from the boarding schools returning to their villages--such happy young people to be going home again.

Many of our girls who have been here all winter will be able to visit home for a week or two before beginning summer jobs, going to UPWARD BOUND, or taking part in the other summer activities.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WARM QUILTS AND BLANKETS!

This has been a good year for most of our girls, with many new experiences and opportunities. Some of these have been provided through the kindness and interest of people in the community, the school system or the University.

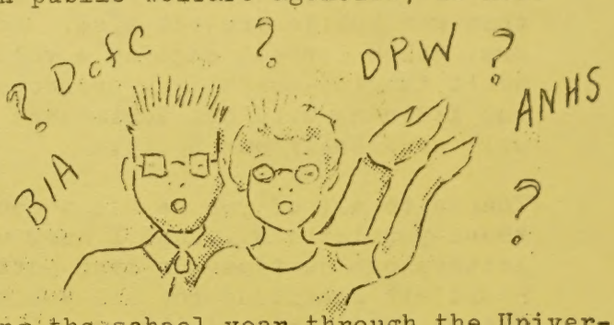
What a year this has been for Conferences.....In February I visited at 475 Riverside Drive, New York to discuss building plans. It was good to meet old friends and meet some new. I then went on to Lancaster, Pennsylvania (missing New York's big snow fall) where I visited with the Stone family, members of First Presbyterian Church there and had a very delightful Saturday evening and Sunday. Then on to the NPHWA Conference at Louisville, Kentucky. Enroute home I was able to visit friends and relatives in Superior, Wisconsin and visit at First Presbyterian Church there as well. Members of their Women's Association came up with some very good ideas for making things that would have sale value.

In April I was a member of a core group attending a conference on "The Church and Human Need in Alaska." This was attended by Church and Institutional Leaders, as well as Community Action people and others interested in pinpointing Alaska's greatest needs and deciding what we as Christians should be supporting.

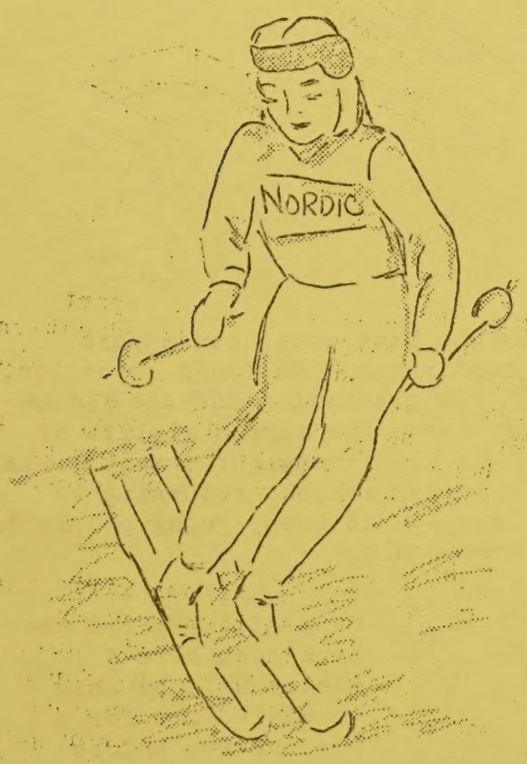
In May I visited Rev. and Mrs. Henry Guinotte and family and their church at Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska, where we had a reunion with former work teams and met another group of fine young people who will be here in July for two weeks and then will spend a week at Anaktuvuk Pass working on the church building there. From Nebraska I returned to Seattle to attend an excellent conference sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America.

Another important conference was held on Alaskan Employment especially with regard to the training and hiring of Alaskans particularly on the north slope. Our VISTA Volunteers attended this.

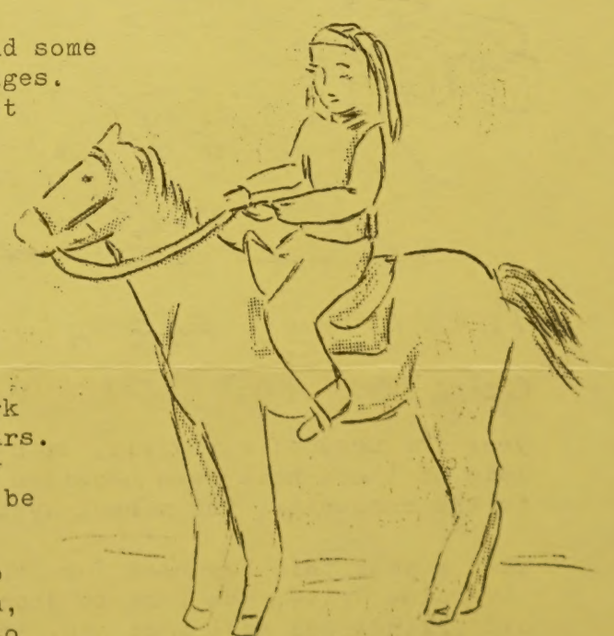
One area of concern has been the need for additional foster homes. After discussions with some foster parents and with public welfare agencies, we held a group meeting for foster parents and potential foster parents. This is not an organization but simply meeting to air their views, share problems and joys and get expert advice. The agencies explain their role and what aid is available so parents can make use of resources close at hand. These meetings are continuing once a month.




We had an excellent tutorial program during the school year through the University. Also they continued to supply some counselors. School grades show marked improvement, especially when a real incentive appears. One of our girls, Louisa, had never been on skis but she began with the group at Lathrop High last September and with lots of hard work--made the Varsity Team. She traveled to Juneau, Anchorage and Inuvik, N.W.T., Canada for the ski meets and to stay on the team also brought her marks up. She is looking forward to continuing exercises all summer while attending the UPWARD BOUND program at the University of Alaska, returning to Lathrop High this fall.




One of the special activities this year has been the horseback riding. The Wynfromere Farms invited our girls to come once a week to learn to ride and also how to care for the horses. Several were able to take part in the June Horse Show and brought home some ribbons.



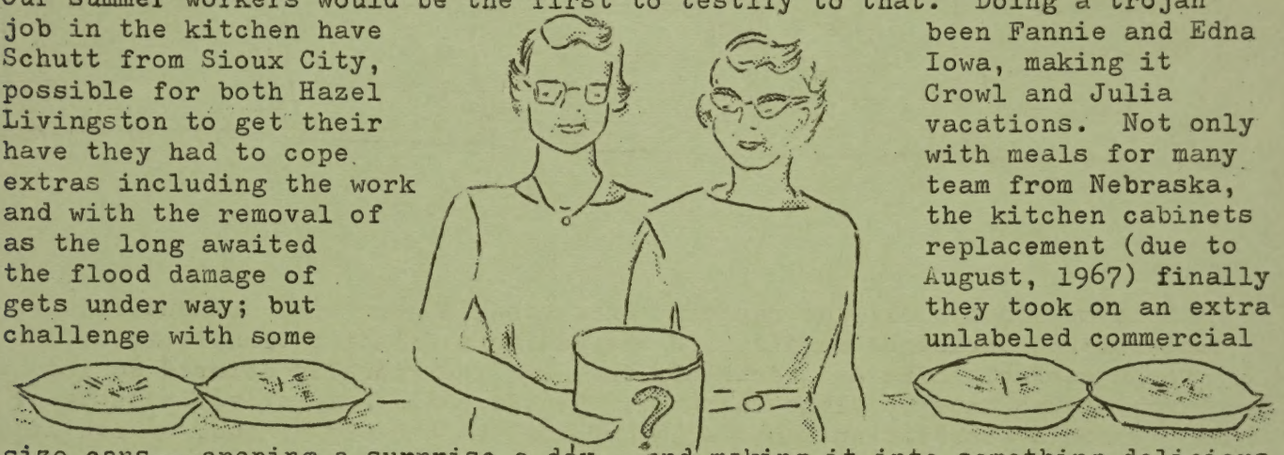
We have had some staff changes. Miss Amoret Wiley of Tennessee, who came to us in September, left the first of June. She has been a most helpful person and an excellent influence with the girls. It is with regret that we said goodbye to her. However, Miss Carol Erickson from New York has volunteered to come to us for two years. She arrived the end of May and is already involved in the program. She, too, will be of much help.

We are looking forward to the addition to our staff of Mr. Paul Unruh from Nebraska, who will be arriving by September first to fill our position of social worker. I met with Mr. and Mrs. Unruh during my visit in Nebraska in May. He will not only be working with our girls, but will be involved in our broadening community services. We had cut back a bit on this type of program due to lack of space, but as the new building becomes reality, our program should be ready to utilize it to the fullest extent.

Our two VISTA workers, Mrs. Helen Morin and Miss Carole Stevens, will be leaving us in July and August. They, too, have contributed much to the work of Hospitality House as well as to the community. Miss Stevens has worked with the girls, planning and taking part in their activities. She was only with us the last part of her year as she spent the early part of her assignment working at the Day Care Center. Mrs. Morin has continued a program of working with our young people at the jail begun by Mrs. Eve Kennedy. Helen also carried on a program of visiting families and some of our former girls in addition to organizing our supply closets to give us a maximum use of space. Both Helen and Carole will be greatly missed.

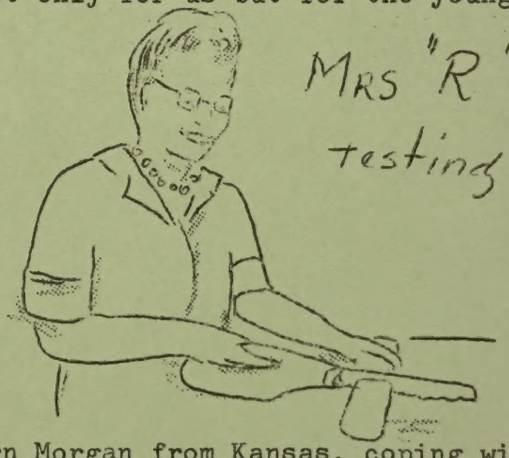
Weeks have gone by since the first pages of this letter were put together. Weeks while we waited some final word of the outcome of our building program. It was!? It wasn't?!! but finally IT IS TO BE.....by the time you receive this newsletter the ground should finally be broken....and with good weather and the Lord willing we may yet have some of that additional space for use this winter. Even in our impatience we know the work is in His hands!

Of course during these weeks things haven't been quiet at Hospitality House. Our summer workers would be the first to testify to that. Doing a trojan job in the kitchen have been Fannie and Edna Schutt from Sioux City, Iowa, making it possible for both Hazel Crowl and Julia Livingston to get their vacations. Not only have they had to cope with meals for many extras including the work team from Nebraska, and with the removal of the kitchen cabinets as the long awaited replacement (due to the flood damage of August, 1967) finally gets under way; but they took on an extra challenge with some unlabeled commercial



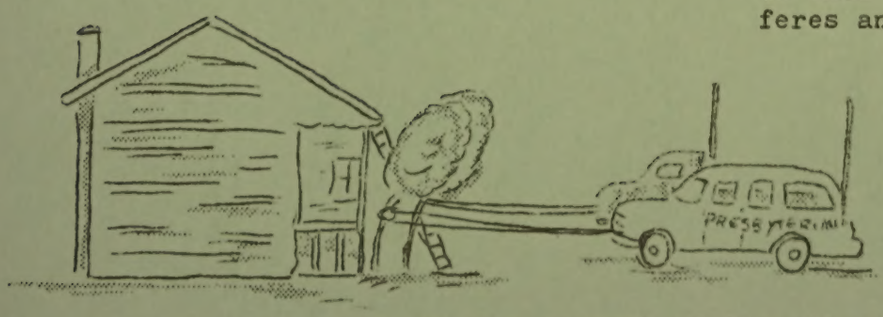
size cans---opening a surprise a day---and making it into something delicious. They also showed slides of their travels not only for us but for the young people at First Presbyterian Church.

In addition they were instrumental in seeing that a new heavy duty mixer lightened the work in the kitchen. The mixer was not the only timely addition--an electric knife arrived with the Nebraska work team--a gift from a group at the Cedar Bluffs Church. I only wish we could let each of you know how much your gifts are appreciated.. craft supplies or linens, bandaids or slippers.....we can never begin to tell you how much it means to the work here.




Our other summer workers have been Miss Fern Morgan from Kansas, coping with our office work with all its interruptions and frustrations, in addition to preparing all the envelops for this mailing--no small task! Fern has managed on her days off to see a bit of northern Alaska and brings back with her an understanding of the problems our young people face in adjusting to a city culture. And Miss Donna Swope, a teacher from Anchorage, has managed to combine daytime classes at the University of Alaska summer session with the evening and weekend program and activities of the girls. Donna had her car having driven up at the close of the school year, and has provided transportation as well as guidance. She filled in at the apartment to give Mrs. Barrett a needed vacation.

Meanwhile, Rev. Henry Guinotte and his fine team arrived from Nebraska after their highway travels and were joined by Mrs. Guinotte and young Hank via air travel. Waste of time is unknown to this group unless the weather interferes and the logs were cleaned, caulked, and spray painted in short order. A neat method of removing the trees from the spray was provided by the travelers' vehicles. The antenna on both is the communication they use on the highway. Many other tasks were also completed including new screens, storm windows, mended doors and drawers and the removal of the old kitchen cabinets. They also



found time to prepare a float and take part in Golden Days in spite of a week of chilly rain. As this is being written the team is hard at work at Anaktuvuk Pass Church in the Brooks Range. They will be returning after holding a Sunday service on August 3 and will be headed homeward soon after. We hope to begin planning toward next summer. Added to all the physical labor, the devotion time and sharing under Henry's leadership means a great deal.

In the midst of the spray painting--windows still covered--we welcomed our beloved Dr. and Mrs. Jackman with a tour group including other old friends and enjoyed tea and fellowship. Summer brings us a busy time with many visitors. We look forward to meeting any of you who travel this way. We do not have sleeping room but we are always happy to provide a meal, a tour of our building and a time of fellowship.

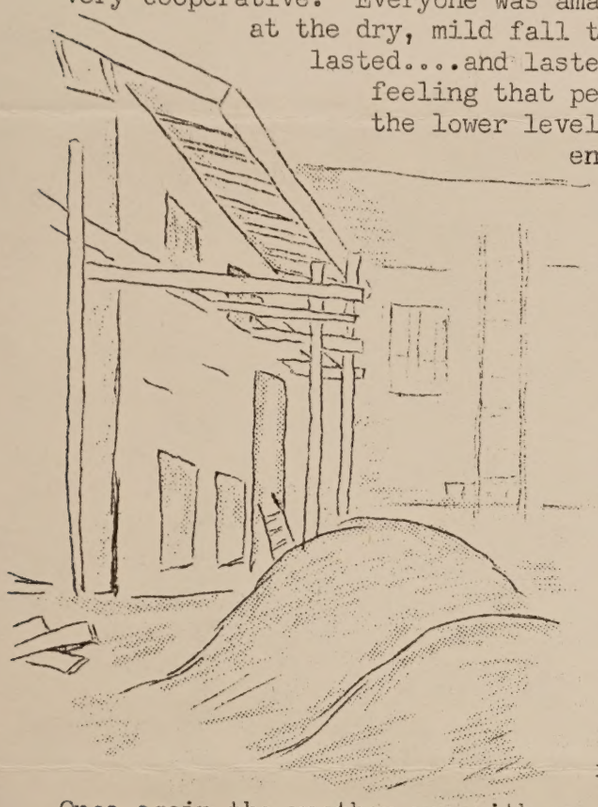
As fall approaches all too rapidly, this seems a good time to mention our hand-colored Christmas carols with the Eskimo and Indian translations. We have no assembly line and certainly they are individually colored so the chance of two exactly alike is small. We can mail them rolled in tubes or if a Women's Association wants a larger number than one or two, we can mail flat packages.

This letter grows and grows--I'll just close with our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generosity, your prayers and concern for the Lord's work--especially for the encouragement you have given us.

Harry & Mable Rasmussen
Hazel Crowl
Julia Livingston
Helen Barrett
Carol Erickson
Helen M. Morin
Esther Hackney

How the Lord has blessed our building project! You may remember we stated in our August 1969 newsletter...."and with good weather and the Lord willing we may yet have some of that additional space for use this winter. Even in our impatience we know the work is in His hands!"

It has indeed been in His hands....from that first shovel <u>full</u> of dirt turned over by Harry Rasmussen at the ground breaking on August 27.....through all the stages of construction the weather remained so very cooperative. Everyone was amazed at the dry, mild fall that lasted....and lasted.... feeling that perhaps the lower level could be enclosed and in use this winter. That would be such a lift.....As the framing went up and the weather continued to hold we saw the roof go in place over those <u>two</u> beautiful floors of space.. ..with much noise and vibration a hole was cut in the hall so the floor when poured could be leveled with the present building. Of course it was kept boarded up after that while construction continued.....the windows went in and the siding was stained and then it, too, began to go up. As it neared the last stages, winter did descend but the men were determined not to let the snow get the best of them. So as the first flakes turned into a real storm, they kept a fire going to warm their hands and completed the outside, moving in to work on the interior.



Once again the weather was with us staying on the + side much of the time....making it possible for work to go on even though the new furnace was not in place and connected up until the week before Christmas. (we'll tell you more about that later.) I doubt there has ever been a construction project that had such avid and continuous "inspection" and so many helpful suggestions offered by all of us.....we really kept our fingers in things all the way.

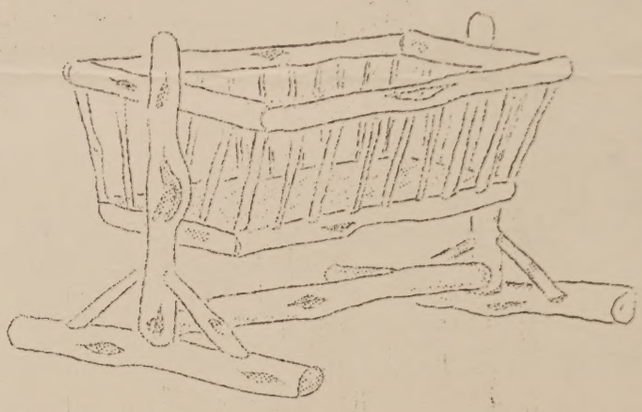
What a thrill it was when we could finally walk through from the inside.....down that light, bright corridor into all that bright cheerful space. The windows make it so pleasant both downstairs and up. It is so well planned that it is really a multi-purpose building....regardless of what our program becomes it will adapt. It is a lift to the spirit just to walk through...light and warm color play such an important part here during our short winter days when we are closed in in so many ways. The

## OUR NEW LOOK

windows catch and make the most of what daylight hours we have. If we sound enthusiastic you will just have to bear with us....we are....we have waited, hoped and planned for so long but none of us dreamed how beautifully the finished product would fit into the scheme of things.....

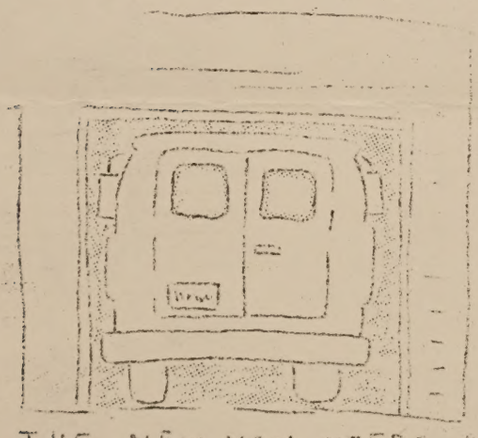
The residence will be just that from now on. The kitchen in the main part of the house will be used just for the girls' meals and any classes, demonstrations or dinners will be served from the kitchen opening into the main meeting and recreation area. When tutors come to help with lessons...no longer will they have to pick up their books to allow the dining tables to be set for dinner...the study rooms will allow the books to be organized for the first time so things can be located, reference books readily available. The room the girls look forward to most is the music room. Not only the girls but other young people living in thin-walled low rent housing can use this room to practice on instruments. We even have the space to store both instruments and music....of course we will need to acquire a bit of both but that will come with time...the important part is that no longer will the sound of piano come through on the dictaphone or add to the columns of figures in the financial statement! A soundproof room where no one need say, "Please, just a little softer!"

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Unruh joined us just in time for the ground-breaking having driven from Nebraska north over the highway. Paul is our full-time social worker and we find this a great help both to girls and staff. Lois has been teaching at Hunter Elementary School. They have both adapted quickly to our northland....even to building a diamond willow cradle for the soon-to-be new member of the family.



Paul's duties cover a wide range of activity. While Harry and I were on vacation in November and early December, he began to experience the full scope of the demands made on the facilities and the staff. This has been of assistance to him as one of our present tasks is a detailed evaluation of our work to aid in deciding what areas need our main emphasis in the months and years ahead.

Our vacation took us to Seattle, Oakland, and Pomona, California where we remained for a week with Mr. and Mrs. George Tinker (Vi Smith, who sends greetings to those who remember her). We went from there to Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska to be with Henry and Martha Guinotte and their family, having a time of fellowship in their church and with young people from former and future work teams. We also were able to have an evening with Fannie and Edna Schutt in Sioux City, Iowa. From there we traveled with the new Econoline Van (12-passenger) visiting our children in Wisconsin and Michigan, then through Minnesota into Canada and home over the highway. It was a very good trip with little ice and snow.



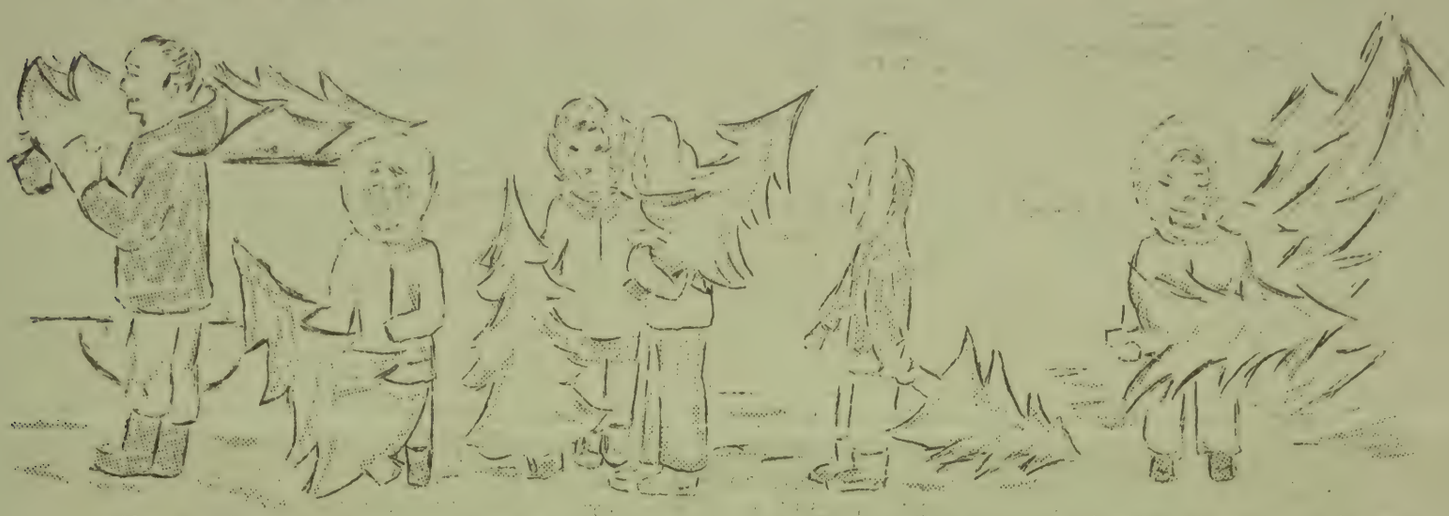
THE NEW VAN NEEDS A SHOEHORN TO FIT IT IN THE GARAGE!

During the time we were gone, Dr. George Sweazey, Moderator of General Assembly and a group traveling with him from within and without Alaska, having viewed the oil activity on the north slope, returned to have lunch amid the activity at Hospitality House. This was a day when a parka and mukluk class was taking place so the parking area was filled with cars, the living room filled with class, plus children coloring or playing quietly while their mothers took notes on fur sewing, etc. To add to the preparation of lunch, two girls had gotten into difficulty at two different schools so our visitors had a taste of "life at Hospitality House!" But lunch turned out all right with many hands assisting at various points, and a real highlight was a tour of the new building and a view of what Fifty Million Fund can do. I was sorry to miss these visitors but glad they were able to take with them a firsthand account of what we are trying to accomplish.

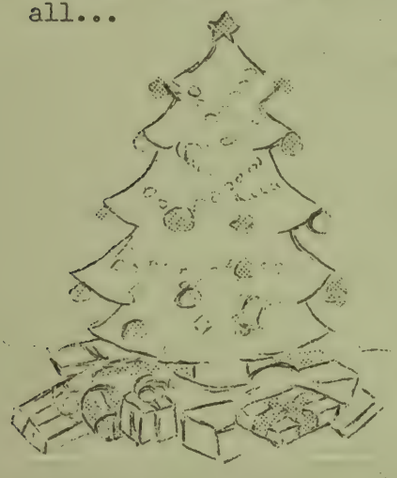
One problem we have always with us is a language problem. Sometimes it can be annoying or frustrating, but at times it provides us all with a chuckle as when one young one came from school like a thundercloud protesting her last period class. Asked what the difficulty was.... she informed one and all that it was Science and she didn't like having to DIGEST a frog!!!

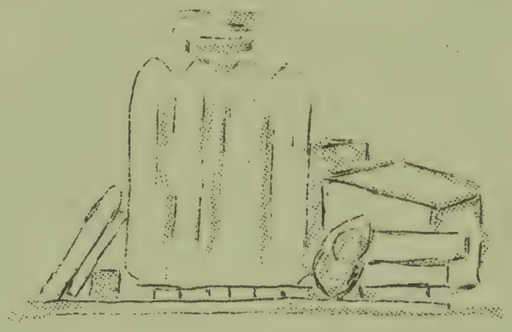
"DIGESTING" A FROG IN SCIENCE CLASS BRINGS PROTEST!

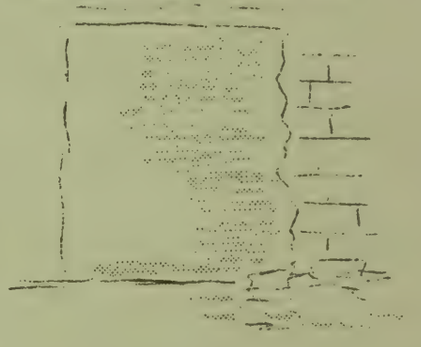
Before the flu struck everyone down, Paul and the girls made a trip to our place on Chena Hot Springs Road to cut a Christmas tree...and enjoy a tramp through the snowy forest area. It turned out that each girl wanted a tree for her room and the resulting load of greenery brought people knocking on our door thinking we were the Kiwanis Tree Sale!



Like a giant package...the new furnace shared the living-room with the Christmas tree. To help put us in the Christmas mood....the music of the concrete block wall of the furnace room being cut out so the old furnace could be removed in pieces...soot and all... and the new one moved into place.



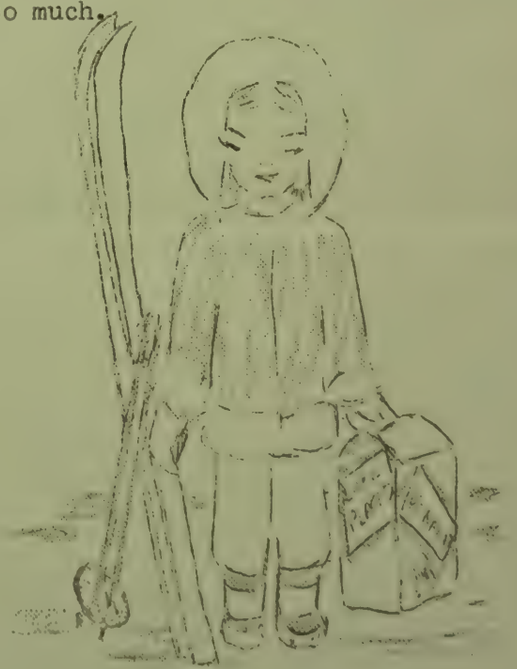




About this time we were supposed to have two wedding receptions and a Christmas party. We thought of decorating the furnace and all its side pieces....but for once we decided to arrange for events to be held elsewhere. One of the side problems from this was no furnace heat and no hot water for two days. The necessary heating to keep the building warm was provided by a master heater.....and again the weather was most cooperative....but this was the time the flu bug hit and five girls were home from school, two staff members were unable to keep going and everyone else dragging along.....until the Rasmussens arrived home to rescue things.

On arrival home we found staff and girls ill with flu and Christmas preparations at a standstill. Thanks to so many of you the lovely gifts were here and we were able to get most things done in time. We did not get any Christmas greetings sent out and we are again very late with our thank you letters. If you haven't heard from us as yet, we are truly grateful for all you have done, and we are trying day by day to get a few letters on their way. Please don't give up on us for your concern and thoughtful provision for our girls' needs mean so much.

One of the frustrations of Christmas time and thank you letters is receiving of subscriptions... we are delighted to receive them but all too often the card from the publishing company lists only a name with no address. Our mailing list is set up by address, state and city, so we often find it difficult to acknowledge these much appreciated gifts.



Skis were a passport to adventure and a trip out of Alaska just after Christmas for Louisa. (Alaska has not had enough snow for good skiing this winter!) This was a first trip out of Alaska and Louisa found plenty of snow on the east coast and came home planning to apply to an eastern college where she can really ski!!

We made a few changes since the last newsletter. Due to raises in rent and fewer girls mature enough to take advantage of our apartment project, we have temporarily closed the apartment. Mrs. Helen Barrett, who worked so hard at this project, continued to help us at Hospitality House but also began giving some

time to the Wycliffe Translators. Early in December she moved out on Chena Hot Springs Road to give full time to the work with Wycliffe. While we all miss her, she is very happy in the work there. Capt. John Draude has continued to do some counseling both with our girls here and those in foster homes as well as at the juvenile detention facility. Both staff and girls are delighted with the news... Mrs. Helen Morin Bennett, former Vista worker at Hospitality House will be returning as a staff member. She will be working with Mrs. Crowl and Mrs. Livingston on Housekeeping.

As this letter starts on its way, I am preparing for a speaking trip to the Spring Presbyterials in Washington State during the first two weeks in March. I look forward to a chance to meet many of you.....so many we have heard from.....I just wish it could be a chance to fellowship with others areas as well. I will be in Spokane, March 2 and 3; Yakima, March 4 and 5; Seattle, March 10; Puget Sound, March 11; Olympia, March 13.

This was going to be a short letter....to surprise everyone....but as always when we get started we find there is much to share. As we get into 1970 with our fine new building, I want to thank you all for your generosity, kindness and most of all, your prayers. I would ask that you continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers that what we do with this facility may be done with our Lord's guidance and blessing.

Harry & Mable R Rasmussen

Paul Unruh

Hazel Crowl

Julia Livingston

Carol Erickson

Esther Hackney

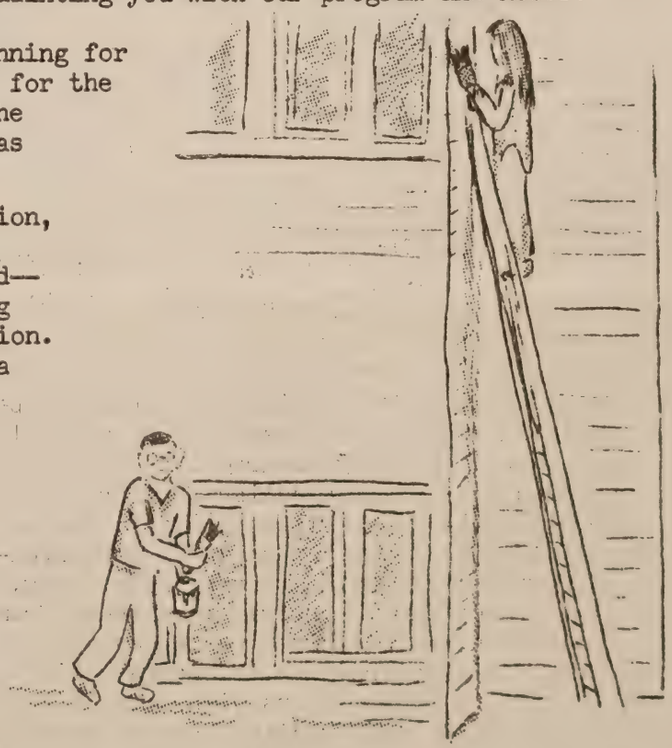
John Draude

December 1970

# 1401 Kellum St.

Greetings from Hospitality House where we have four feet of snow and -44° on our thermometer. If you were to come into the House you would see a happy attitude on the part of both girls and staff because this cold weather is, as we know, temporary and, at least for the first few days, we enjoy the demands the extremely cold weather puts upon us. Mr. Unruh takes the girls to and from school in our big van when it is this cold. This, of course, the girls consider special. So many activities had to be postponed because of heavy snow and blizzard conditions. This is not usual here; while we expect snow, we seldom have wind with it.

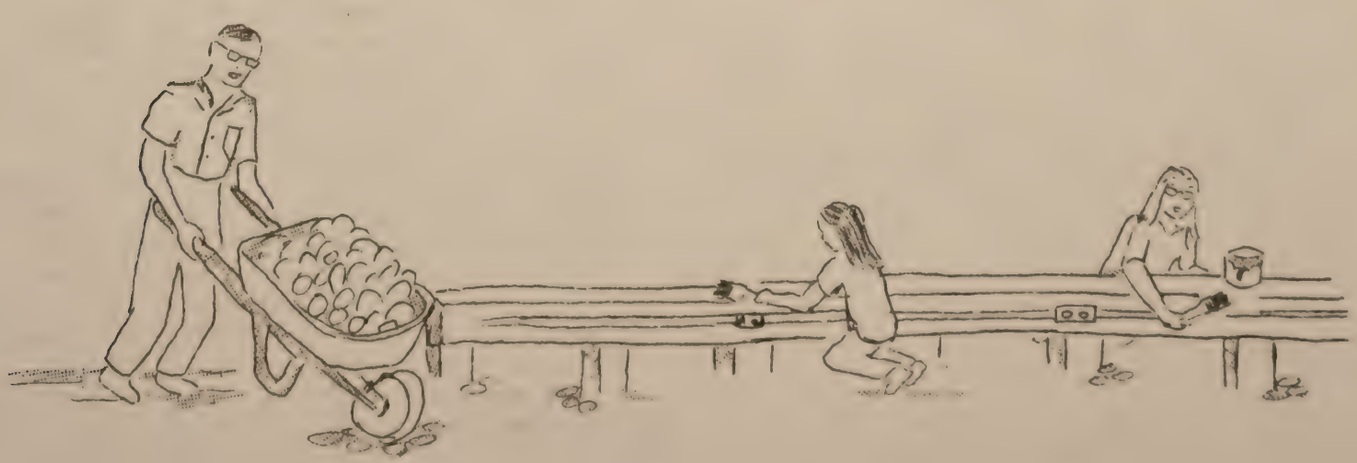
The last newsletter sent was just as I was preparing for a visit to the Presbyterials in Washington State. What a joyful time it was for me, a time of getting to know many of you and renewing old acquaintances. The response we have had from the Women's Associations as a result has been wonderful. I appreciated the opportunity of talking with you and acquainting you with our program and needs.



Upon my return it was time to begin planning for the end of the school year, preparation for the summer work, the summer work team and the dedication of the new addition, which was already in use.

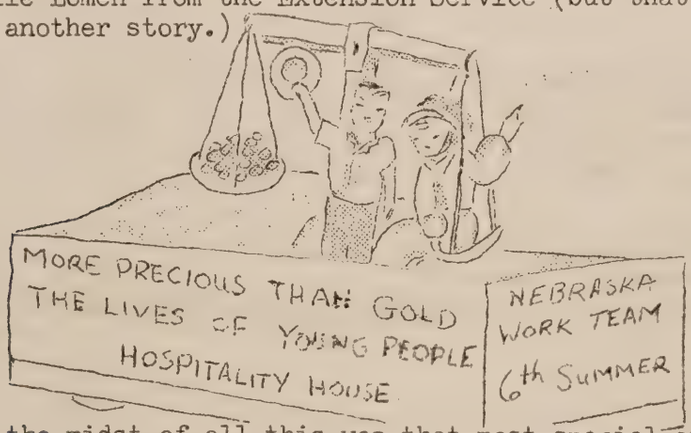
Arriving just a week before the dedication, the Nebraska work team was "everywhere" doing all the finishing tasks they could—painting all the window trim and putting a finish coat of stain on the new addition. Staining the divider in the parking area and leveling the "tailings" (from the gold dredges) around that Alaskan essential item—the plug-ins for the cars when it gets -30 and -40. Much appreciated already this year! Moving the clotheslines, adding an extension to the doorbell so it rings in both buildings. Blocking off the old entrance next to Fish and Wildlife—and that brings us to a mention of the new address. We haven't moved but our main entrance has—to the new addition and that faces on Kellum Street. Another year the yard in front of the residence will be turned into a real recreation area for the girls.

For Martha Guinotte and summer volunteer, Lois Kretsch, from Illinois, planning the meals and filling up the hungry workers became a full time occupation. Mitsuko Arakaki from the Governor's Office in Tokyo, Japan poined them for lunch one day and marveled at the way the fresh bread, jam, and baskets of fresh cookies disappeared after an already filling meal.



What do you do when you have a garage that faces south and suddenly it needs to face north?!! If you are Hospitality House you place the problem in the capable hands of Rev. Henry Guinotte and the Nebraska Work Team 1970. The new music room became wall-to-wall cots as once both ends of the garage were open-air, the male members of the work team could no longer sleep there. By the time they finished their work--complete with a new paint job--you would never know the garage had not always faced our new entrance on Kellum Street. Many wheelbarrow loads of tailings from the gold dredges were laboriously packed into place to make a drive-way up to the new entrance. Only the overhead garage doors were installed by the Overhead Door people--otherwise the Nebraska young people did all the work.

Not only all the outside work, but also painting the bedrooms of the residence took place with the girls' eager assistance, not only in choosing the colors, but in wielding the brushes. Then at the last the work team spread top soil and peat on the lawn area readying it for the planting. In between time, they found time to make a flying visit to their friends at Anaktuvuk Pass, taking with them the summer volunteer workers, Eleanor Johnson from Collingswood, New Jersey who did the secretarial work as well as work with the girls; Judy Ramseyer, from Pennsylvania who worked with the girls on recreation, camping, hiking, etc.; Susan Frazer, who teaches in Basking Ridge, New Jersey but comes from West Virginia. Sue worked with our girls and also with the younger group that came in for nutrition classes under the leadership of Julie Lomen from the Extension Service (but that is another story.)



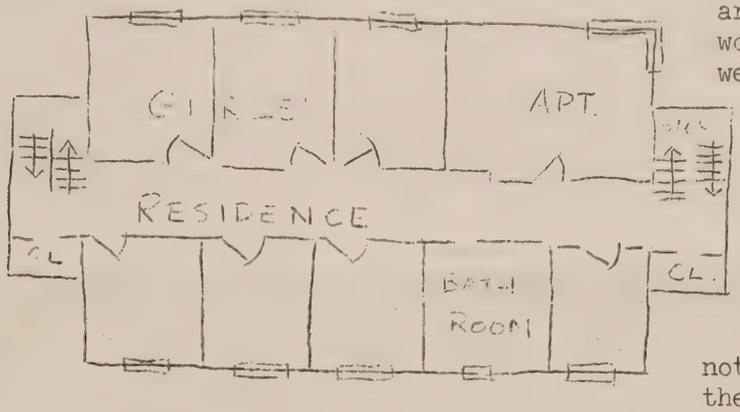

Another activity that has become a "must" for the work team is building a float and participating in the Golden Days activities as Fairbanks celebrates each year. Each year they seem to out-do the last with new ideas. This year being a political year, the floats of politicians made it a longer than usual parade....but their theme made its point as you can see.....

In the midst of all this was that most special event, our dedication of the new addition. We are so thankful to have all this lovely space in which to work and carry out community programs. HOW did we ever manage??

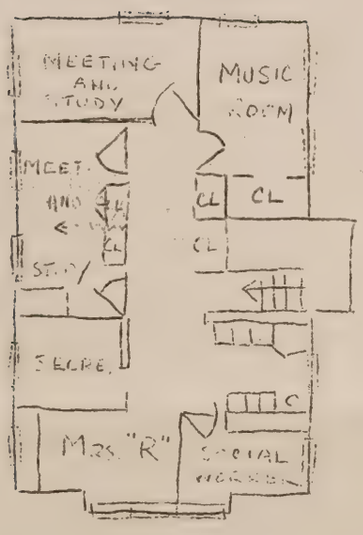
Our dedication was a delightful service. Dr. Alexander Campbell, our Alaska Mission Administrator for the Synod of Washington-Alaska was with us and gave a short talk. Represented on our program were those from our church, both Eskimo and Caucasian. Indian friends from the Fairbanks Native Association presented us with a painting of an Eskimo woman (Edith Tegoseak from our church choir, shown lighting the seal oil lamp at the opening of the Eskimo Olympics.) To make it a perfect day, after prayer by the pastor of the Negro Church of God in Christ, their youngest choir, the Jubilee Singers....what voices and how joyfully they sang! After the presentation of the memorial plaques, Henry Guinotte gave the benediction. Refreshments were served and a good time of fellowship followed. Our thanks go to the many who helped to provide the refreshments and to our Administrative Committee for their work.

During the summer months visitors and tour groups come to see us. Some originated in the midwest, some in the east, traveling to see our great state of Alaska. We are always happy to see them. Among the visitors were some whose churches I had visited. One fine couple came in and offered to help in any way they could--since the work team had just left--and we had discovered we had blocked off the entrance to the racks of garbage cans---they worked hard and long leveling an area beside the garage for this.

Miss Mildred Herman, who was traveling throughout the Orient for COEMAR stopped for a few days and was able to join Mary Tener in a flight into Anaktuvuk Pass after being outfitted with proper warm gear from our clothing room. More recently Mr. Joe Watson, Associate for Indian Ministries with the Division of Church and Race of our Board of National Missions, visited with us on his way to the National Congress of American Indians held in Anchorage. He hopes to come back in January. We plan on getting together as many Native leaders, both Eskimo and Indian as we possibly can to give him an opportunity to learn the needs and accomplishments of our Native population. Again I would invite those who travel to Alaska to stop in to vist us whether in a tour group or individually. We enjoy a chance to visit and show you around. (We won't put you to work unless you volunteer!! But we do want to thank the fine volunteers we have had.)

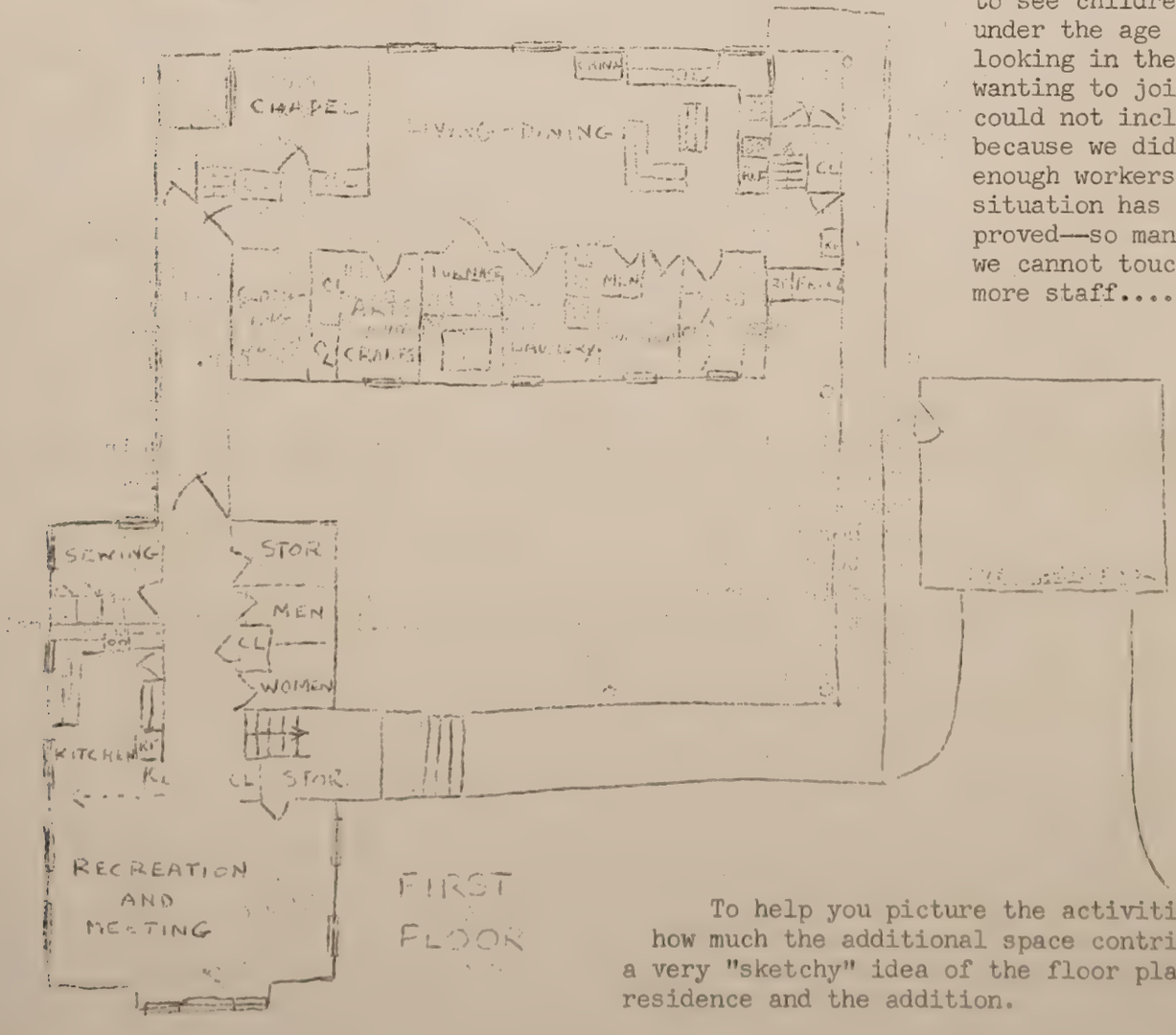



The summer is always a hectic time when it seems impossible to carry out a scheduled program. We make use of the out-of-doors camping, hiking, etc. Our summer workers did an exceptional job, in fact, we did not have one runaway girl during the time the summer workers were here. There were camping trips to Harding Lake Camp and a longer trip to Mt. McKinley Park to camp out. In addition to the workers mentioned earlier, Kay Rutherford from Iowa worked with music during the short time she was with us. Martha Guinotte came a week ahead of Henry and the work team to assist in many ways especially with the meal planning. She gave an extra week after they left also and with Lois Kretsch gave our housemothers a much needed vacation.




SECOND FLOOR

One of the most amusing and profitable classes held in the summer was the series held in conjunction with the Extension Service of the University of Alaska. Miss Julie Lomen from their staff with the assistance of Miss Susan Frazer from our summer volunteers, taught nutrition to children nine to twelve years both boys and girls. They were delighted to learn about food values--while making (and eating) cookies, cocoa, pizza, and even a simple nourishing breakfast. We were rather dismayed to see children just under the age limit looking in the windows wanting to join in. We could not include them because we did not have enough workers. This situation has not improved--so many needs we cannot touch without more staff.....

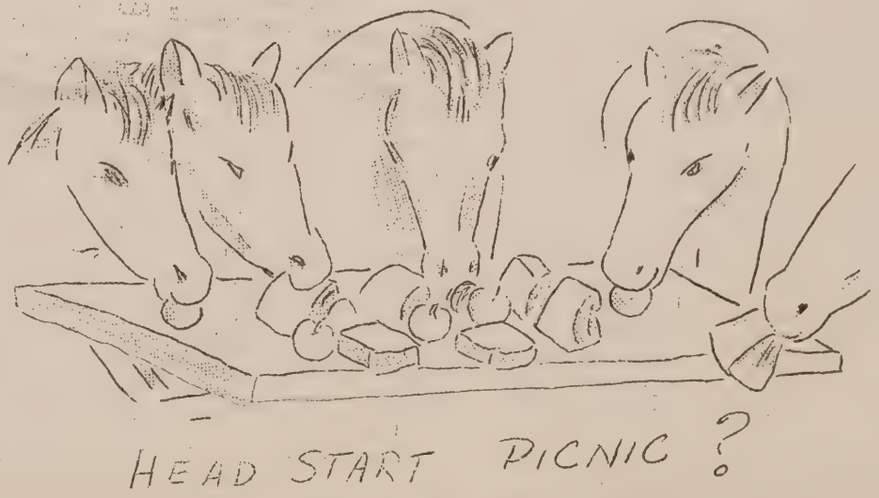



FIRST FLOOR

To help you picture the activities and how much the additional space contributes, a very "sketchy" idea of the floor plan of the residence and the addition.

Another profitable class was for girls twelve and over who learned to knit and sew. We hope to continue work with these groups when and if we can get interested volunteer workers. During late summer and early fall many classes were held for adults as well as for the younger groups. Parka making always brings a large group; mukluk making; nutrition; a seminar on drug abuse; a conference of the Native Health Board with representatives from many remote villages--in addition regular meetings of the Fairbanks Native Association, Hospitality Homemakers, Zonta Club, Inter-Agency luncheons, United Good Neighbors and others. Young people who do not have a place in their own homes for such things as wedding receptions or parties have held these events at Hospitality House. We were most touched when a mother whose daughter would be eighteen years of age, came to ask if she could give her a party here. She had never had any kind of party and the mother longed to provide one. It was really a special event. The Negro Church of God in Christ with whom we have had such a fine relationship over the years, gave a dinner to raise funds. Their willingness to help and desire to be of use in every way is wonderful. They have a women's organization, The Lavendar Ladies, through which they help Hospitality House with their gifts and their time.

There are some changes in staff. Mrs. Julia Livingston, who had been with us for three years, left to work with the Alaska Homemaker's Service at Anchorage. Although we miss her, this is an area of service to people that she will so very capably fill. Miss Carol Erickson, who was our volunteer for over a year, met a very fine young professor at the University of Alaska. They are now married and living in Canada where he is teaching this year. Carol was most valuable to us and will be remembered by our girls for her work with them in horseback riding and swimming. Thinking of Carol and the horseback riding--Mr. Howard of Wynfromere Farms has been so fine in providing riding free of charge for our girls--Carol occasionally assisted with other groups. One group Carol went to assist with was a group of Head Start youngsters on their first visit. Carol said the youngsters got off the bus and put their lunches on the picnic table. Before anyone could prevent it--the horses descended on the picnic table (while the children scattered) and held an impromptu picnic!! In spite of the poor beginning, the children had a good time...certainly the horses should have been especially cooperative! As this letter comes out, Mrs. Frances Conger has come from Sitka to join our staff in Julia's place. And, if you remember in our spring newsletter, we told you of the diamond willow cradle Paul and Lois Unruh had waiting for the new member of the family. We are delighted to report that young Kenton Todd is a joy to his parents and to the girls and staff at Hospitality House. Of course he isn't going to be spoiled?!




Louisa, our skier who traveled to the east coast to ski last year, will go to Norway over the Christmas holidays for a skiing tournament. She is one of several Fairbanks young people who will be going. Her transportation is made possible through the wonderful contributions of the Barrow Native Brotherhood, the Barrow Mothers' Club, the Upward Bound Program and Fairbanks Native Association, Chena Kiwanis Club and some individuals. She finds it difficult to believe it is happening to her.

As we prepare for Christmas, we are receiving packages from many of you as well as contributions to help with the girls' Christmas. Some will be able to visit their homes but others will be here. Volunteers have been coming in for an hour or two at a time to help wrap packages. Fortunately since the first paragraphs of this letter were dictated--the weather has warmed up (we have more snow) and the girls with Paul Unruh have been out to cut a tree. This year it has the living room to brighten up without the help of the furnace! We have memories of the construction a year ago and can only be grateful for God's perfect timing....in this as in all things! Again we would thank all of you for your love, your concern and prayers and wish you a joyful holiday season with God's blessing in the coming year.

Harry + Mable R Rasmussen
Paul Unruh
Hazel Crowl
Helen M. Bennett
Esther L. Hackney
Frances J. Conger

1401 KELLUM
NOVEMBER,
1971

Greetings to all our Faithful and Concerned Friends:

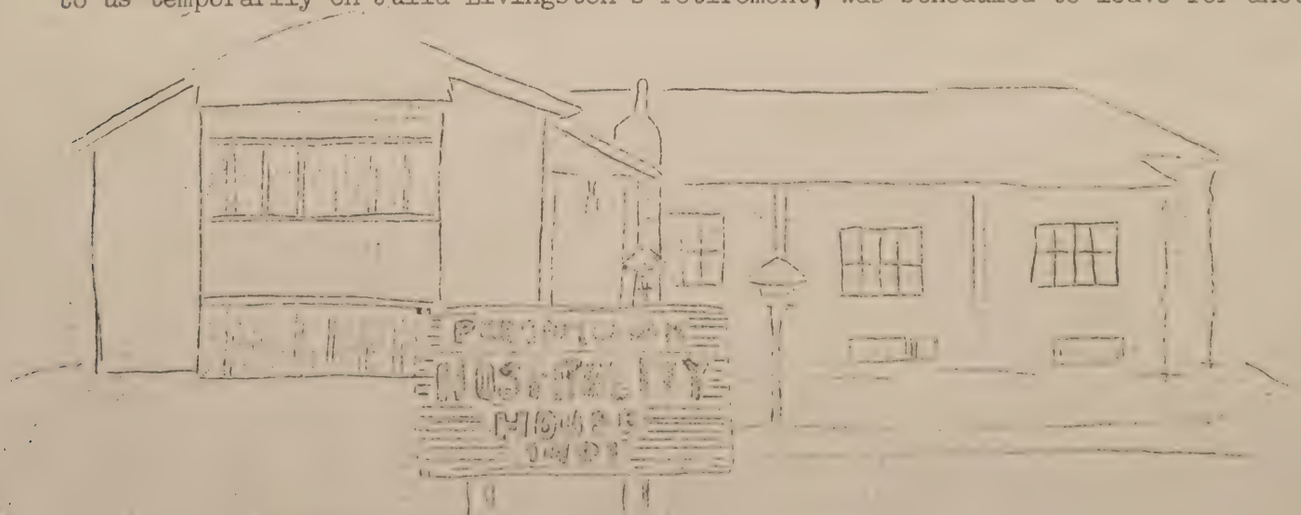
During the past few months we have heard from many of you asking, "what has happened to the newsletter??" Some of you felt we had missed you on our mailing list--not so--just that we find it difficult to get the newsletter out more often than once a year. This time of the year seems to work out best for us. Summer is past with its' so different program--the girls have returned to the pursuit of knowledge and the staff to a routine. Winter programs have begun and plans for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday are in the making. Halloween was a quiet time of fun with the schools providing the bulk of entertaining--evidently doing a good job as our girls were most vocal in their appreciation.

Our last newsletter was sent when we were deep in snow. Much more fell to set new records. We spent the months of spring break-up...as did all of Fairbanks...with a flood plan...listening to radio broadcasts of the river run-off. The river rose and fell like a yo-yo as the weather alternately warmed and cooled. We even moved some of our furnishings to the upper floors. At one point in May the danger was so imminent that the Red Cross and Civil Defense moved in prepared to take over. Boarding Home Students were sent home before the close of school. This included two of our girls who later expressed regret at having to miss the last few weeks of school when it turned out to be unnecessary. The record snowfall just flowed down the rivers steadily with enough cool weather to alleviate the danger. We were most grateful.

We were sad when our friend Dr. Alexander Campbell came to the end of his association with the work in Alaska. He has been so very faithful...always willing to listen... yes...and to hear what we were saying. He shepherded us through some difficult times. We certainly wish him all the success in the world in his new pastorate at First Presbyterian Church in Yakima. Dr. Gordon Corbett is the new Mission Administrator for Alaska located in Anchorage and we are looking forward to working closely with him.

Graduation was almost an anti-climax after all the flood warnings but it was with great joy that Belinda did graduate. Louisa had returned to her home village earlier in the spring and while assisting with the youngsters in the school there, was completing her remaining credits by correspondence. She has found much satisfaction in teaching younger children to ski and also to share her art abilities in helping them develop their talents.

The end of May found us with another crisis and one that has been all summer in the solving. Many of you know that Hazel Crowl, our Housekeeping Supervisor for over five years, planned to retire at the end of May. What we didn't foresee was that Helen Bennett, who was prepared to take Mrs. Crowl's position, would be called home due to serious illness in the family and be unable to return. Fran Conger, who came to us temporarily on Julia Livingston's retirement, was scheduled to leave for another



1401 KELLUM
NOVEMBER,
1971

Greetings to all our Faithful and Concerned Friends:

During the past few months we have heard from many of you asking, "what has happened to the newsletter??" Some of you felt we had missed you on our mailing list--not so--just that we find it difficult to get the newsletter out more often than once a year. This time of the year seems to work out best for us. Summer is past with its' so different program--the girls have returned to the pursuit of knowledge and the staff to a routine. Winter programs have begun and plans for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday are in the making. Halloween was a quiet time of fun with the schools providing the bulk of entertaining--evidently doing a good job as our girls were most vocal in their appreciation.

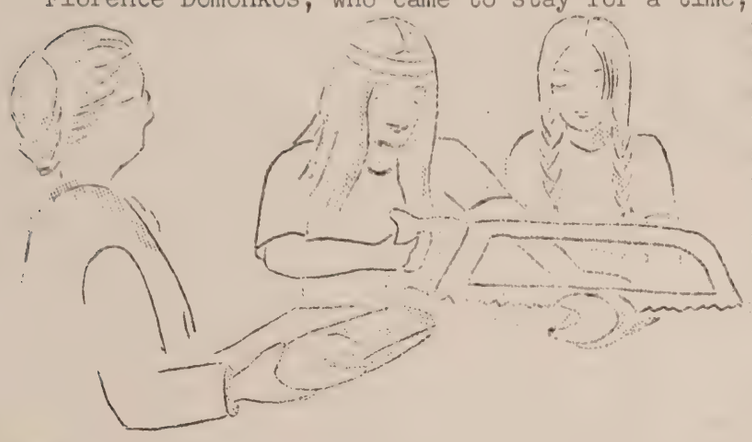
Our last newsletter was sent when we were deep in snow. Much more fell to set new records. We spent the months of spring break-up...as did all of Fairbanks...with a flood plan...listening to radio broadcasts of the river run-off. The river rose and fell like a yo-yo as the weather alternately warmed and cooled. We even moved some of our furnishings to the upper floors. At one point in May the danger was so imminent that the Red Cross and Civil Defense moved in prepared to take over. Boarding Home Students were sent home before the close of school. This included two of our girls who later expressed regret at having to miss the last few weeks of school when it turned out to be unnecessary. The record snowfall just flowed down the rivers steadily with enough cool weather to alleviate the danger. We were most grateful.

We were sad when our friend Dr. Alexander Campbell came to the end of his association with the work in Alaska. He has been so very faithful...always willing to listen... yes...and to hear what we were saying. He shepherded us through some difficult times. We certainly wish him all the success in the world in his new pastorate at First Presbyterian Church in Yakima. Dr. Gordon Corbett is the new Mission Administrator for Alaska located in Anchorage and we are looking forward to working closely with him.

Graduation was almost an anti-climax after all the flood warnings but it was with great joy that Belinda did graduate. Louisa had returned to her home village earlier in the spring and while assisting with the youngsters in the school there, was completing her remaining credits by correspondence. She has found much satisfaction in teaching younger children to ski and also to share her art abilities in helping them develop their talents.

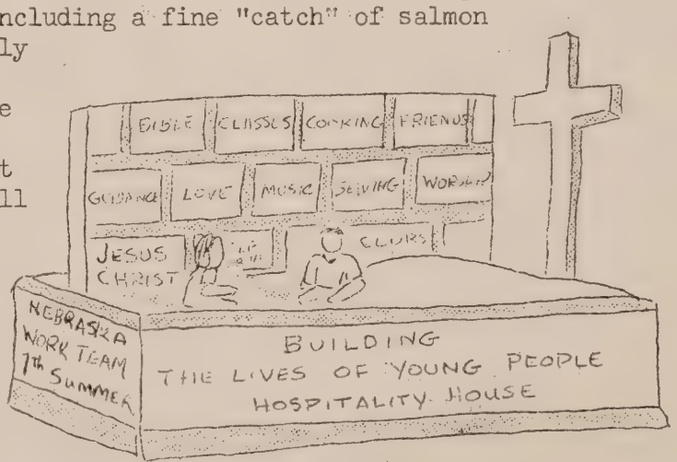
The end of May found us with another crisis and one that has been all summer in the solving. Many of you know that Hazel Crowl, our Housekeeping Supervisor for over five years, planned to retire at the end of May. What we didn't foresee was that Helen Bennett, who was prepared to take Mrs. Crowl's position, would be called home due to serious illness in the family and be unable to return. Fran Conger, who came to us temporarily on Julia Livingston's retirement, was scheduled to leave for another

position so we were left to face the summer without permanent housemother staff. Cora Matthews, a friend of Mrs. Conger's offered to help after her day's work in an office. As her husband was away for two weeks, she moved in and was invaluable to us. Then, Florence Domonkos, who came to stay for a time, took over the shopping, etc. With the wonderful assistance of women from both University Community Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church who provided casseroles and main dishes for some two weeks, we were able to hold out until the summer volunteers arrived.

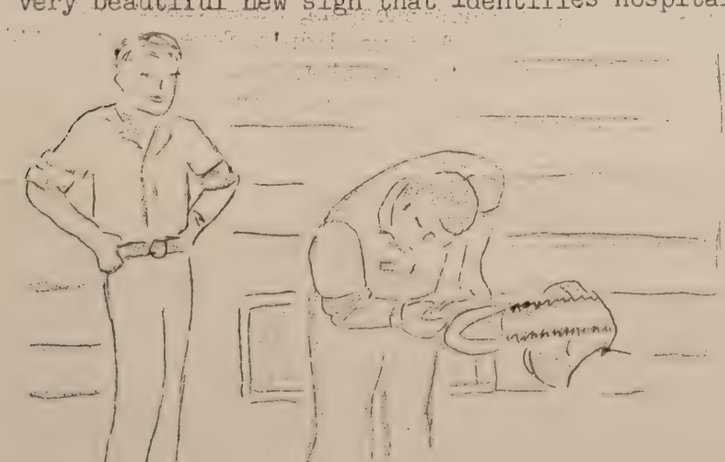


MRS. BARBER'S "CATCH" OF SALMON.

First to appear was Mrs. Nan Moberly from Texas to cope with all the demands of the office and our always insistent telephone. Harriet Allison from Arizona arrived to work with the girls. Unfortunately the illness and death of her grandfather, who was over 100 years of age, called Harriet home July 1st. The girls had become very attached to her and continue to correspond. Meanwhile our young summer volunteer to help on housekeeping came and left in a brief two-week period. Through the usual wonderful assistance we get from the Reverend Henry Guinotte and his wife Martha....they located Mrs. Alice Hall from Neola, Iowa, who had accompanied one of the Work Teams on their Alaska trip in 1967 and she came immediately. Then we were delighted to get the news that Mrs. Olive Barber, a former nursing supervisor from Yucaipa, California, had volunteered to help us after a tour she had signed up for failed to materialize. Upon arrival she was informed that she would be in charge of the meals. Never having planned or prepared meals for more than three, she was floored--but not for long! She did an amazing job with good nutritious meals including a fine "catch" of salmon when she found she could purchase directly from the operator of a fish-wheel. Her nursing ability was also brought into use many times. Because of her willingness, dedication and know-how, hers was a great experience not only to herself, but to all of us.




Henry and Martha Guinotte continued to try to recruit additional permanent staff in the Nebraska-Iowa area-- more about that later. Martha with daughter, Diana, traveled directly to Fairbanks to help us as soon as the work team left Nebraska enroute over the highway. What a wonderful contribution she made and what a morale builder she is! The week before the team arrived saw Martha baking giant batches of bread daily to stock the freezer both for our girls and the hungry workers on their arrival. What a joy the arrival of the Work Team always is... this year Mrs. Maxine Dunker was the very capable assistant traveling with the team and Henry Guinotte. There were twelve boys and girls from varying backgrounds but all with a desire to learn and to give of themselves. It is amazing the amount of work they produced: an additional coat of stain on the new addition, painting the interior downstairs of the residence, installing new vents required by the Health Department that required sawing through the great logs of the residence wall...no easy task. The very beautiful new sign that identifies Hospitality House is a showpiece giving the city tour buses an excuse to stop and point us out. Each letter was individually cut, sanded and painted before assembly. In the midst of all this hard work, time was found to build a float for the annual Golden Days Parade as well as to take a trip to visit Anaktuvuk Pass and all the friends there. They were able to load the charter flight with some needed freight for the village....some day they may have a road into the village if the pipeline ever is built but meanwhile they are victims of high air freight costs and, of course, the weather often prevents small planes from landing...as last winter when they had a real fuel crisis. In addition to all the other projects, a sturdy new fence was built to screen the residence yard from the busy four lanes of Airport Way and the two lane access road just beyond. It seems hard to believe that all this work and activity can be packed into such a short period of time even when you see the work team in action. They had everything in good shape before they took off down the highway. One contribution that works both ways is taking turns in bringing daily devotions—they learn that Jesus is part of daily living—not



just for Sundays and emergencies. They related very well to our resident girls and it was very difficult when the team loaded up to leave...first one and then another came to say just one more good-bye. Our girls talked much after they were gone of the fun they had had and how much they had learned. Letters are still flying back and forth and it has left feelings of caring and sharing in our young peoples' hearts. This is one of the very best of our church outreach programs and one that costs the church the least in that the groups do much to earn their own way.

A real treat at this time was a visit from Viola Smith Tinker, here to spend some time with her sons. We held an Open House one afternoon and many of the girls who knew "Aunt Vi" came and brought their families and enjoyed a time of "remember when..."

Our two other summer volunteers Jane Copley from Nebraska and Sue Pummill from Missouri were busy with the summer program. We plan a program for summer geared toward giving each girl experiences to help her reach toward a way of life of value to herself and to others. Learning to share in group experience is most valuable. One part of the summer's activities is that of camping. We were so very thankful for those individuals and groups who contributed toward camping equipment and tents. The first time the girls went for a weekend they had to return after one night out battling mosquitos. We decided right then...no more camping without the protection needed from Alaskan mosquitos!! There were many learning experiences including hikes and bicycle hikes when the bikes would hold together. Bicycles being in short supply due to an increased demand by whole families taking to cycling we were most delighted to have the Fairbanks Kiwanis Club purchase two new bicycles for our girls as soon as they were available.

As Jane left the end of July, we were most fortunate to have Judy Ramseyer, who was with us last summer, arrive to be a one year volunteer. With Judy's experience from last summer the camping trips really got under way. Even young Kenton Unruh joined in going camping though his contribution to getting the van loaded might be questioned??

We rejoiced in the many visitors including two Presbyterian tour groups. We were able to entertain them with coffee and cookies and to show them what we are doing and where their contributions are being used. We enjoy visitors at any time... how better can we tell people about Hospitality House. Our new addition seems to be busy at all times with various community groups enjoying the bright cheerful rooms for their meetings and classes. One day a week the Food Stamp office operates here for the convenience of those with no transportation in nearby housing areas. The Re-Act Citizens Band Radio Group, Golden Heart Al-Anon Family Group, several groups of League of Women Voters, Adoptive Parents, Family Planning, Parka Classes.....as many and varied groups as you can imagine. Once a month the Inter-Agency lunch gives all the social service and helping agencies a chance to become acquainted with what each agency does and how we can unite in giving a better service to the community. Until the Native Welcome Center opened in their new location, we served as the meeting place for the Fairbanks Native Association, Native Health Board and the Tanana Chiefs as they met to make decisions regarding health, welfare and education needs of all the Native people.

Another big event was a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Dave Griest. Dave is the son of Dr. Henry Griest, surgeon-missionary to the Barrow area years ago. They drove their car, a Rambler, all the way from their home in Florida. While here they showed films from the early days when Dr. Griest was in Barrow. We had invited as many of our Eskimo friends as it was possible to contact. Women from the University Community Presbyterian Church provided cookies and coffee. The films are priceless and it was interesting to hear comments from the audience such as, "Oh, that's us getting married!" or "There is our Uncle." "Is that ME?" There were those shown on the film who have long since departed and there were tears mingled with the laughter. Then Mr. Griest presented Mrs. "R" with the keys to the Rambler to be used by Hospitality House....what a delightful surprise! The large van is fine for group

outings but not so practical for short trips to the dentist, doctor, shopping, etc. Then Mr. Tom Brower from Barrow presented a gift of $100.00 to be used for gas, license insurance and use of the little car. How wonderful!!

Miss Norma Tryner came from University Presbyterian Church in Seattle and gave her vacation time to take pictures, to up-date our sets of slides and to help in any way she could with information and publicity. We never knew when she would be popping around a corner looking for good snaps. She took many and we hope to be sharing them with you through our new sets of slides made possible by her hard work.

Our new staff is now assembled. We were fortunate late in August to hear that Mrs. Helen Platzke was moving here from Minnesota to be near her family. Then through the Guinottes, Mrs. Virginia Stouffer from Falls City, Nebraska arrived early in September. Kathie Rex, a graduate of Florida Presbyterian College with Judy Ramseyer came in September as a one-year volunteer also and her specific area is to help the girls with tutoring and with "parent"-teacher conferences, etc. Harry Rasmussen, now that he is retired, helps with overall maintenance.

It has been two years since the Rasmussens have taken a vacation or a trip. We had hoped to do this this fall once things settled into a routine, however, we have spent a little time getting our house in the country fixed for winter and moving things so that we no longer stay at the apartment at Hospitality House, leaving that for the housemothers on duty. It has been good to get some of our things gathered together and feel "at home" even though the drive isn't always easy in winter weather. We hope to be able to take a trip early in the new year.

We are still working on the carols, the note paper and some new note designs, and now we have both The Beatitudes and some new place mats to make up for sale. Our good friend, Rev. Russ Wilson, has done so much to complete the designs and help us with these projects...spending hours and hours on delicate hand-work. Surely we are grateful to him. If some of you would be interested in some of these things, please let us know.

This has been a busy, busy year.....beset with problems yet surely the Lord has blessed us and we look forward to the days ahead in His service. There is much to be done in a troubled and unhappy world where the only happiness and stability is in the Faith that has been given to us and taught only from one generation to the next. May we be faithful in sharing with those about us the satisfaction and joy of living in Him.

Harry & Mable R Rasmussen

Paul Unruh Alice J. Hall

Helen Platzke Virginia Stouffer

Judy Ramseyer Kathie Rex

Esther L Hackney Florence Simmons

6 A 16 F

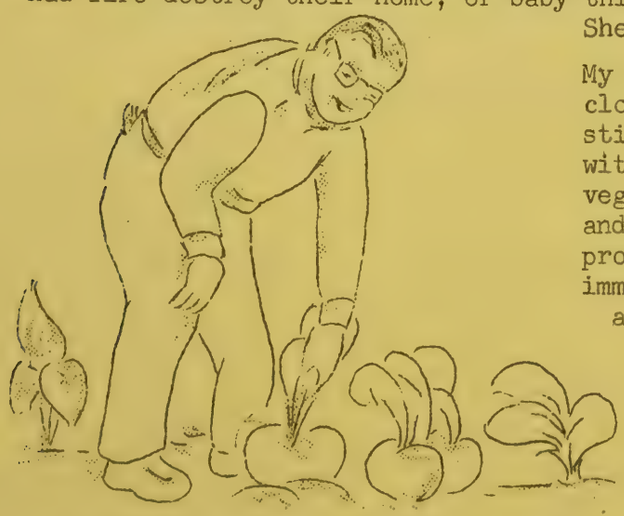
December 1972

Dear Faithful Friends:

Again we are late with our newsletter and many of you are wondering if we have forgotten you on our mailing list. We had hoped to have this in the mail by November 1, but our activities are many and time is limited.

We have just celebrated the wonderful season of Thanksgiving, a time for rejoicing and gladness. There is so much we have to be thankful for.....as a nation, as a free people, for our individual homes and especially here at Hospitality House.

We have had many changes in Staff and changes in Program making it difficult at times to attain goals set. At present we are greatly blest with a staff of dedicated Christian people who are concerned not just for each girl's physical welfare, but for her intellectual and spiritual needs as well. Our present staff consists of Paul Unruh, Social Worker, Esther Hackney, Office, Helen Platzke, Housemother-Child Care Worker, Ruth Miklahook of Savoonga, Alaska, Housemother. Being Eskimo, Ruth gives the girls a feeling of security in having someone of their own with them. We all love her cooking and baking, too. Mrs. Hazel Crowl, who was with us for five years and retired May, 1971, came back for two months as a relief for workers needing vacation. She will be returning via Hawaii to her home in Redfield, Iowa for Christmas. It was good to have her with us again. Anne Jones is doing an excellent job with the girls on recreation program while attending classes at the University. Anne first came to Hospitality House as a member of the Nebraska Work Team in 1969. Then she came as a summer volunteer this past summer, joining regular staff in September. Mrs. Beth Tyler comes to us from Des Moines, where she was a counsellor in the public school system. She is giving us most valuable service, counseling with the girls and staff, helping coordinate our program with that of the schools, trying to help each girl realize her greatest potential. Mrs. Margaret Robertson is another valuable person with many talents. When she is not accompanying girls to the doctor or helping when someone is ill or upset, she is caring for clothing needs. We have many demands from people in need of clothing here in town and sometimes from the villages. She is often called upon to make up a bundle of clothing for families who have had fire destroy their home, or baby things for a family unable to provide the necessities. She makes many calls in homes.



My husband, Harry, although he does not work as closely with Hospitality House as he formerly did, still keeps the Hospitality House family supplied with all the potatoes they can eat plus some garden vegetables. We have been fortunate that friends and neighbors have supplied us with rhubarb and produce from their gardens, which, when not used immediately has been frozen for future use. What a great help that is and we are grateful.

Let me not forget to say here how very much we have all appreciated the work of our Administrative Committee. They serve as our Board of Directors without status or financial remuneration.....only their concern for the needs of others and a love for God makes them willing to serve. The successful operation of Hospitality House is due in great part to the very fine service these people give us.

In January we had a most inspiring 'Happening' when Moderator Lois Stair came to visit. Her time was limited and we had to share her with others but we were able to have a tea. It was good to discuss the many matters concerning the work of our church throughout the world. We do so appreciate visits from church leaders. Our staff and board members provided a lovely tea.

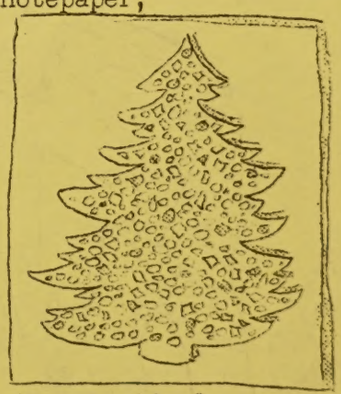
Our experience with summer volunteers was most rewarding. Among those who came to help was Miss Justa Campa, a friend of many years who has been a counselor and visitor, director of work with refugees and many other things during the past 20 years with National Missions. She is now working at Holding Institute in Laredo, Texas which is a Methodist organization. Some of us were slow in realizing she was available, however, she is enjoying her work.

Justa's time with us was spent visiting in homes in the neighborhood. She contacted agencies concerned with peoples' needs, acquainting them with special programs at Hospitality House, enquiring as to needs they might have. We are doing some follow-up and find she has done excellent ground work. We have had calls from people needing assistance and also from those offering their services as a result of her visit. She also found time to entertain young Billy and his puppy while his mother was in for a visit.

Mrs. Katherine Patterson from Lexington, Ky. also began a valuable project for us. We have long needed a good evaluation of the past work of Hospitality House. In order to do this past records must have follow-up done. Due to rapidly changing times we need to evaluate past as well as present programs as to their effectiveness to provide the best planning for the future outreach of Hospitality House. Katherine was assisted in this project by Nancy Arce from Claremont, California whose husband was in Fairbanks as a coach for the Alaska Goldpanners team.

Virginia Hibbard came to us from Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico and did such excellent work in our office. (In fact, if Virginia had not done such a fine job on the address labels for this mailing, it might have been late January or even February before these letters reached you!) Because we lacked space in the staff apartment, Virginia had a room in the girls' residence. Like some of the rest of us, Virginia found the confusion and noise of teen-agers not the easiest to take .....especially at bedtime. We certainly took our hats off to her because of her willingness to accept and try to understand our high-spirited teen-agers.

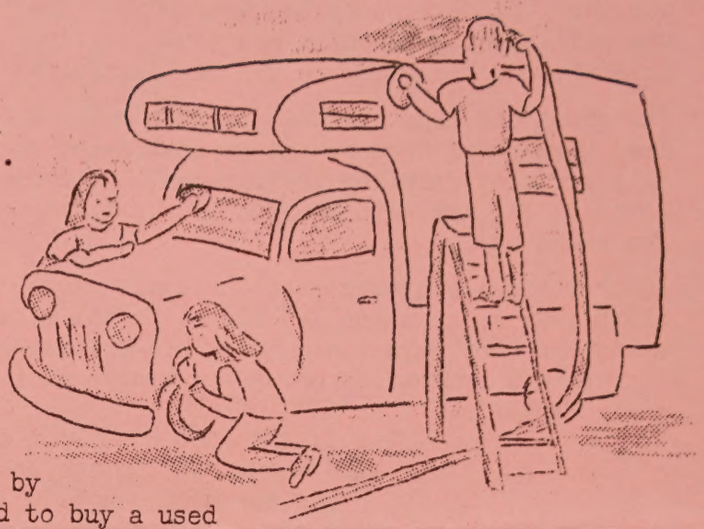
Many of you will remember that Fannie and Edna Schutt were with us the summer of 1969. They returned to give us six weeks again this summer with a long list of accomplishments including 187 loaves of bread, nearly 5000 cookies, 26 pints of jam.....and oh, that banana bread! We could go on and on and on, but they also found time to complete notepaper, jewelry bags, and Christmas trees.....made from old jewelry and mounted on plywood with tiny lights twinkling through. Not content with all this, they have sent additional lovely jewelry bags since their return home for sale at our tea, bazaar and other events. Truly they have made Hospitality House a continuing project and we are most grateful.



The University Presbyterian Church of Seattle, Washington each year sponsors many young people for projects of service overseas and in the U.S. including Alaska. This was our first experience of involvement with their program and I am pleased to say that it was a most wonderful experience. These are dedicated, trained young people. Because Seattle is near and I could arrange a visit with them before they came to Alaska, they felt they were not going to an entirely strange situation. Paul, our social worker, while attending the Child Welfare League of America Conference in Seattle, was also able to meet with them. A problem which is prevalent wherever groups work together is that of the older and younger staff lacking rapport. In times past we have in some measure had this problem but not so with this group. When at the end of the summer we held our last discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of the summer work, the one idea came through strongly was voiced by each young person. They all stated how pleased they were to learn that they could work and fellowship with older people and even become good friends. Could it be that each person was trying to put Jesus and others ahead of self?? Karen Hanseth also gave time to the Alaska Crippled Children's Association by using her speech therapy training to help a young student. Barbara Beebe, Tom Biggs and Kim Gonnason were the other three members of the group and with Anne Jones, they all helped with our church camping program, with junior church programs and conducted some church services. Kim also played the organ for some Sunday morning services.

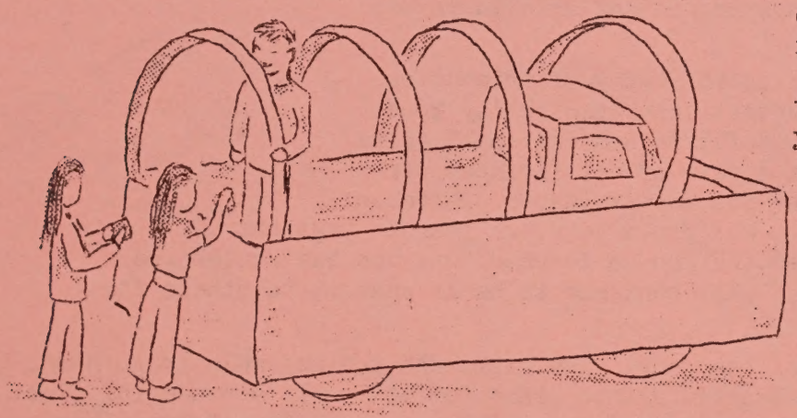
During the summer vacation some of the girls were able to return to their own homes but were replaced with others who had needs. Because of the fine assistance of the volunteers we had an excellent program of camping, fishing, horseback riding and teaching the girls to play ball. They had several games going between staff, our girls, and neighborhood young people. A special event was a trip to Mt. McKinley Park where each one learned to be responsible for some part of the camping. This was a good learning experience as well as fun. Paul, who is a creative person, taught carving with diamond willow cut from the Rasmussen's woods. Even the city recreation program used this beautiful material.

The girls and younger staff members held a car wash in order to raise funds to send Hilda to the special Olympics held at Los Angeles. Cars and campers arriving over the Alaska Highway are often very dusty and some unusual methods were employed..... This was a big event in Hilda's life. She came home so excited with medals and awards pinned to her jacket and hanging about her neck. She was also thrilled at being interviewed by Dinah Shore on her program. After returning home Hilda and her mother saw it on our local television.



This is not the first time our girls have made an effort to help others or themselves by trying to earn money. Last fall they wanted to buy a used billiard table being sold by the University. The cost was prohibitive for our funds so they, together with staff, gave a pancake supper. They raised a substantial amount and several friends contributed to their fund making their debt much less. They plan on doing something again very soon.

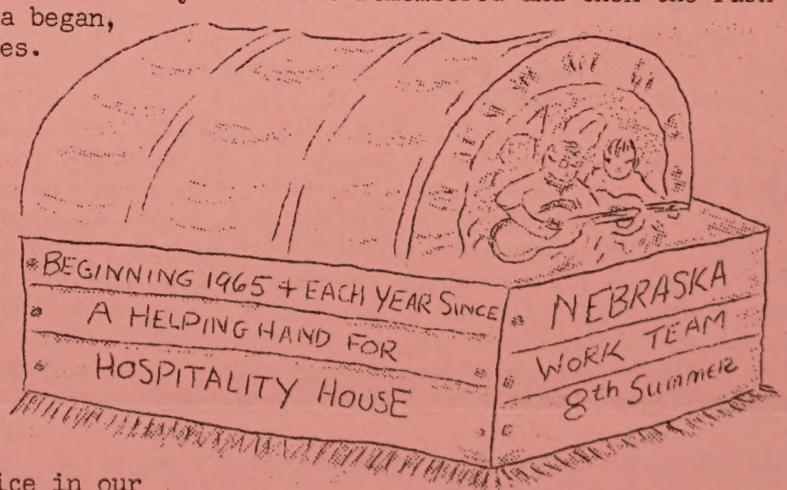
The Guinottes came again with their very fine young people. Martha again managed to come early and remain after the Team left for Nebraska. What a help she is! The group did many things.....painting, repairing, cleaning and working on the lawn .....in general doing the many things that are neglected during the year.....even to connecting the new dryer which was given to us by the Yukon Presbyterial (all our wonderful church women in Northern and Central Alaska.)



While here the work team also found time to participate in the annual Golden Days Parade with a float assembled between other jobs.

Martha and Henry visited the Palmer Church which was in need of a pastor. They were called and together with Diana and young Hank are now at Palmer, Alaska. We are glad to have them near us and being part of Alaska especially as over the years they have contributed so much.

Although we had heard and read of the coming eclipse, no one thought of it again until the girls spoke of the odd appearance of the sky. Someone remembered and then the rush for equipment to view this phenomena began, some even hoping to get some pictures.




One of the most joyful results of the new interest in getting back to early ways of the Christian faith is the evidence of groups who enjoy singing and playing to tell that wonderful story. Two groups were in Fairbanks this summer. J.C. & Co. (Jesus Christ and Company) and a group from a small village named Minto. J.C. & Co. gave a concert at our high school and three of our girls made a committment of their lives. The Minto group held a service in our church. It was thrilling to see those young people formerly involved in drinking and drugs tell about the change in their lives. Our girls invited them for an evening and had a time of fun, fellowship and much music.

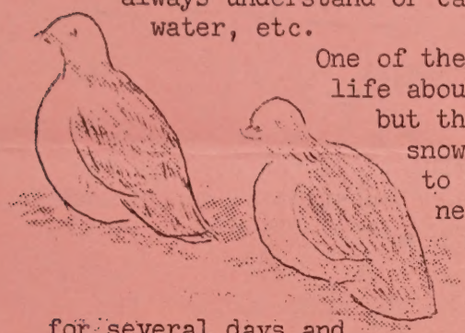
In October our Administrative Committee gave a Harvest Tea for our friends in Fairbanks and the girls again wished to help with it. They did well, helping make some of the cookies, acting as guides showing people their home and helping with the serving. The girls decided that the men on the Administrative Committee were to be responsible for pouring but the task fell mainly to Glenn Hackney and Walter Lord as most of the others were busy canvassing for Stewardship Sunday. However, Harry Rasmussen and our pastor, Gene Straatmeyer also took turns at the tea tray and the punchbowl.

I might mention here that Glenn Hackney, Chairman of the Administrative Committee was elected to serve in the State House of Representatives. We are happy about this although we will miss him when he goes to Juneau. We had mixed feelings when he was campaigning. We need him at the state level and locally. He is a dedicated Christian who will try to

understand and consider the needs of Alaskans. His wife, Esther, our faithful office manager, will accompany him to Juneau. The Lord has already supplied us with people who will substitute until she returns....our pastor's wife, Jean Straatmeyer and Millie Dufseth, our Treasurer on the Administrative Committee.

The girls and Anne are hard at work on another project with some advisory help from Emma Widmark at Cooperative Extension and Jacqueline Glasgow from Tundra Times. Not only are they painting their rooms, but refinishing their furniture in coordinating colors. The Amaranth members are assisting with new rugs replacing those they gave a few years ago.

Another greatly appreciated Christmas package....a treat for both girls and staff is the DISHWASHER to be installed thanks to the members of the College Rotary Club. It will be a lift in many ways since the girls (no matter how carefully it is explained) do not always understand or carry through on the necessary steps in disinfecting rinse water, etc.



One of the most beautiful sights we Alaskans enjoy is the wildlife about us. We see moose, fox, sometimes lynx and bear, but the most beautiful of all are the grouse and the snow-white ptarmigan. We were delighted one morning to see several grouse walking around in the yard near the windows. They spent much of the day nearby. Later we saw ptarmigan perched in the trees and low bushes picking seeds or dried berries. They stayed in the area for several days and it is interesting to watch people stop to watch the birds. We are thankful hunting is not allowed in the city limits!

We often receive gifts of money or Bibles in memory of friends or relatives. This year we received a bequest left Hospitality House by a friend of many years. She was faithful in sending small gifts to the girls for Christmas or during the year as her finances permitted. We began a correspondence that was most valuable and encouraging to me. When we did not hear from her for a year, we learned that she had gone to be with her Lord. A few months ago we learned that she had remembered Hospitality House....an investment that will continue to be of benefit to others for years to come.

We are now at the most exciting time of the year. The girls who are not able to go home, or visit elsewhere, are entering wholeheartedly into plans for making it a wonderful time. As they plan they think too, of what they can do to give others a good Christmas. They plan on caroling, making cookies, visiting the elderly. I hear surprises being planned around corners. Some will take part in the Eskimo pageant which is given in our church each year. Boxes of lovely gifts have come in from many of you and we are so thankful. You have made it possible for these many years for our girls to have a wonderful Christmas and many are most appreciative. Another group we would thank is a new Golden Heart Homemakers meeting here and their members have done so many kind and helpful things including the wrapping of the girls' packages this year.

I have at this time an announcement to make. It may come as a surprise to many, but some of you who have been corresponding regularly will realize that it is not entirely unexpected. At our last Board meeting I tendered my resignation to become effective August 31, 1973. Sounds quite a way off...but not really. A new Administrator will have to be found and before that, much planning by our Committee must be done. As Harry and I have been with Hospitality House since its' beginning, it means much to us and for several years was almost a life apart. We are both thankful to have had the privilege of serving these many years but I do not want to continue until my leaving would be a necessity. I will continue to assist and do what I can to further the cause of Hospitality House where personal plans permit. At present we have made no definite plans and prefer to let the Lord lead in the future as he has in the past. The wonderful fellowship through correspondence and sometimes in person throughout the years will be an unforgettable experience. Thank you all for your wonderful support. This has not been an easy decision yet I feel it is right. My one desire is that you continue to support this work in the years to come as you are doing now.

A Christmas poem by Joan Walsh Anglund, put to music by Diana Terry, sung by our girls:

"CHRISTMAS IS LOVE"

"Christmas is Snow, Christmas is Night, Christmas is Home and Candles bright
Christmas is Prayer and One Star, above, Christmas is Children, Christmas is Love."

With that, we, the staff and girls send you our love and best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a New Year that will see Peace in our world and in our hearts and a new dedication to the cause of Christ and our fellowman.

Ruth Miklahook Harry & Mable R Rasmussen
Paul Unruh Elisabeth N. Tyler Arnold Jones
Helen Platzke Margaret W Robertson
Carol M Parker Esther L Hackney